Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Cyprus Intercedes To Help Palestinian Refugee Ship

NC1810124995 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 1000 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Glavkos Kliridhis will discuss with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Colombia, where he is now, the issue of 650 Palestinians who were expelled from Libya and are aboard a passenger ship anchored off Larnaca. The Palestinians are seeking a homeland.

According to CyBC's [Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation] information, the Republic of Cyprus has already interceded to resolve the issue after Syria's refusal to accept the Palestinians. Yeoryios Kolidhas, captain of the ship CONTESSA I, told CyBC that the ship will remain in Larnaca until a country is found that will accept the 650 refugees. He also noted that he had been assured the issue would be resolved today.

A CyBC correspondent who has gone aboard the ship said everything is calm there. More than half of the refugees are children. Captain Kolidhas also reported that the ship has enough food and medical supplies for 15 days.

Granting permission for either temporary or permanent residence to the Palestinians aboard the ship anchored off Larnaca is not an issue. Acting government spokesman Spiridhon Arotis said this in a written statement. Arotis also stressed that no such permission will be granted nor has the government been asked to do so. Arotis also said the government will offer any kind of humanitarian aid to the ship's passengers for as long the ship remains anchored off Larnaca.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Makes Statement on Jerusalem

LD1810200495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Holy Mecca, 18 Oct — The General Secretariat of the Islamic World League urged all countries of the world not to respond to the Israeli pressure to transfer their embassies to the city of Jerusalem. The league said that the holy city was an Islamic and Arab city under occupation and Israel could not consider it as its capital and make it a headquarters for foreign embassies, in accordance with international resolutions which considered Jerusalem part of the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement issued today, Wednesday, the league added that the Islamic World League supported all the efforts that had been made by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, regarding Jerusalem. The league also reiterated its support for the resolutions which had been made by the kings and leaders of the Islamic countries at the Seventh Islamic Summit which was held in Rajab 1415 [December 1994-January 1995] in Casablanca, Morocco in which Muslim leaders stressed the Arabism and Islamism of Jerusalem and the need to protect it from Israeli aggressive schemes.

The statement said that Arab and Islamic countries were very concerned about the Israeli pressures put on the countries of the world regarding the transfer of their embassies to Jerusalem.

The statement said that these attempts violated UN Security Council Resolution 478 which urged the countries of the world not to recognize the measures of the Israeli authority in Jerusalem. They attempts were also in contradiction with Resolutions 242 and 338 issued by the UN and the Security Council stipulating that Jerusalem was part of the occupied Arab territories.

The General Secretariat of the Islamic World League pointed out that the attempts to Judaicize and obliterate the Islamic characteristics of Jerusalem had caused concern among all the Muslim peoples represented in the Islamic World League because this holy city was an Islamic one which embraced al-Aqsa Mosque, first of the two Kiblas and the third mosque towards which Muslims converge.

The Islamic World League condemned all attempts aimed at transferring foreign embassies to the city of Jerusalem and urged the Arab and Islamic governments to confront, with all might, the measures of Judaicization of the holy city because this would expose the future of Jerusalem to the dangers of a Zionist control and would subsequently be annexed to Israel.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 13 Oct

NC1810074595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 13 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Chief Editor Referred to Court Under Law 93/1995
2. Journalists, Others Criticize Decision To Try Chief Editor

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5. Report Details Arrest, Trial of Muslim Brotherhood Members
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7. Charges Against Detained Muslim Brotherhood Members Rebutted
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10. Acquitted Detainee Still in Prison
11. Government Criticized for Referring Civilians to Military Courts
12. Human Rights Group Condemns Military Trial of Civilians
13. Husayn Views Elections Battle, Detention of Muslim Brotherhood Candidates

CHIEF EDITOR REFERRED TO COURT UNDER LAW 93/1995

A 600-word report on pages 1 and 8 by Dawud Hasan is highly critical of the attorney general's decision to refer AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn to trial in the libel case filed by 'Ala' Hasan al-Alfi, son of Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi. The report says the referral was made in accordance with the "suspicious Law 93 for 1995, which imposes harsh and unfair penalties on journalists and was rejected by all the press establishments, the Journalists Association's general assembly, and the journalists third general conference. It is the same law which the president of the Republic pledged not to apply. A committee has been formed to prepare an alternative law to be presented to the People's Assembly at its next session." But, the report adds, "the attorney general surprised the public and all the press with his decision to bring AL-SHA'B's chief editor to trial according to the clauses of this law."

The background to this case, according to the paper, was an article published on 28 July which accused the son of one of the government ministers of practicing hooliganism after returning to Egypt. It adds that the interior minister's son regarded himself as the target of the article, although his name was not mentioned. Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, teacher of law and deputy leader of the Labor Party, is then extensively cited on the case and the reasons why the chief editor should not be tried, especially as the article in question could have referred to the son of any of the 33 ministers.

JOURNALISTS, OTHERS CRITICIZE DECISION TO TRY CHIEF EDITOR

Dealing with the same issue, the paper publishes on page 3 a 3,000-word investigative report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il and Subhi Buhayri which voices the reaction of a number of journalists and others on the referral of Majdi Husayn to the court. All those cited are critical of Law 93 and of the government's action. Noting that all the forces in Egypt have rejected this law, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, deputy leader of the Journalists Association, says that what is happening in the country now is an attempt to divert the people's attention from the elections battle "in order to rig them after the government has sensed the extent of the support for the Islamic trend."

ROSE AL-YUSUF journalist Shafiq Ahmad 'Ali is cited as calling for resorting to the constitutional court to repeal the law. Journalist Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud notes that he attended Majdi Husayn's interrogation and it proved that the article in question did not mention the interior minister or his son. He calls on the journalists to escalate their campaign to repeal the law under which he will be tried. Journalist Yahya Qallash says Majdi Husayn's referral to the court confirms the journalists' suspicions of the government. He adds that this action proves that the government has not changed its stand on the law and is determined to proceed with the crisis until it reaches a sharp confrontation. Writer Safinaz Kazim says that journalists have the right to confront hooliganism and express the people's conscience. Dr. Muhammad 'Usfur finds similarity between this issue and the referral of civilians to military courts and the recent arrest of certain candidates.

Law teacher Dr. Husam 'Isa says the law in question is meant to protect corruption and calls on journalists to take a bold stand against it. AL-AHRAR chief editor Mustafa Bakri accuses the regime of "turning a deaf ear to the collective demand of all the journalists to repeal or at least freeze this law." Counselor Yahya al-Rifa'i voices the opinion that the problem lies with the regime, which allowed such a law to be enacted, and with the People's Assembly that legislated it. Yasin Siraj-al-Din, assistant secretary general of the Wafd Party, says that bringing Majdi Husayn to trial on the basis of this law contradicts the president's pledge that this law will not be applied to any journalist until the new press law is enacted. Law teacher Dr. 'Atif al-Banna urges the public and journalists to continue their opposition to this law, which "confiscates freedom of opinion and expression."

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POPULAR COMMITTEE ADVOCATED TO SUPERVISE ELECTIONS

A 100-word unattributed report on page 1 says that the Ibn-Khaldun Center for Development Studies called for forming a popular Egyptian committee to ensure that the elections will be fair. It says that the committee "will hold a preparatory meeting soon to lay down its action program." It adds that the committee will include public leaders and worthy figures and that branches will be set up in the governorates.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON DEATHS IN PRISONS CITED

A 500-word item on page 1 cites a report by Amnesty International saying that the number of detainees dying inside prisons is steadily increasing and that at least "16 detainees have died so far this year." The report describes what the paper terms the climate of harshness and severity that prevails in prisons. The item adds that Amnesty International's report noted that "those dying while in detention were suspected of belonging to or supporting banned Islamic groups such as the Islamic Group and the al-Jihad." The report notes that some of the detainees have been in prison for years without trial and others who were acquitted by courts are still there.

REPORT DETAILS ARREST, TRIAL OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS

A 400-word report on page 1 by Khalid Yunus deals with the arrest and trial of a number of Muslim Brotherhood members. It says that the Higher Military Court will continue tomorrow, Saturday [14 October] the trial of Muslim Brotherhood members amid "a complete disregard for the defense lawyers' rights and demands to obtain some documents concerning the outcome of the labor and local elections, which the Muslim Brotherhood candidates fought and won." The report then deals with the arrest of 14 other Muslim Brotherhood members early this week and their ongoing interrogation. It cites four of them — Dr. Hilmi al-Jazzar, member of the Doctors Association council in al-Jizah; Dr. Mahmud Husayn, teacher at the College of Engineering in Asyut; Dr. Hasan Shihatah, teacher of accounting at al-Azhar University; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, assistant secretary general of the Arab Doctors Federation — who refuted the charges against them, criticized the way they were arrested, and demanded to be released. The report then says that the State Security Intelligence Service prevented members of the Doctors Association board from holding a news conference on Tuesday to explain "the extent of the vicious attack on the association's leaders." The board, the report adds, called on its branches and other associations to voice solidarity with the detained doctors and decided to contact local and foreign human rights groups to press the government to release them. The report also mentions that the Lawyers Association's freedom committee condemned the arrests and the unfair campaign and appealed to the nationalist forces to stand united in defense of public freedoms.

REPORT NOTES LACK OF EVIDENCE IN MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD TRIAL

A 600-word article by Mahfuz 'Azzam on page 2 also dwells on the trial of Muslim Brotherhood members before a military court. The writer says that President Mubarak referred their case to the military court on 26 September before the defense lawyers had a chance to see the evidence against their clients. He adds that the court held its first session on 30 September during which the senior defense lawyer demanded the defendants' release "due to the absence of evidence and of prosecution witnesses." He notes that the defense lawyers have not as of this day, 13 October, obtained copies of the evidence or the list of witnesses because "these just do not exist in the first place."

He then voices the opinion that President Mubarak's quick move to refer the case to the military court and the relevant instructions issued to the military prosecution "did not give the military prosecution time to fabricate the evidence. This could be because the Higher State Prosecution Office, which conducted the investigation, did not find any evidence or witnesses who can be relied on when presenting the case to the court." The writer then alleges that jurists in Egypt and abroad are unanimous in saying that the referral of the defendants to the military judiciary is invalid because it violates the Constitution, the law, and the international convention on human rights, which was ratified by presidential decree 536 for 1981."

The writer then adds: "The malicious advisers who surround the president should know that the use of the authority of the Armed Forces' supreme commander in partisan struggles and for elections purposes is indeed a very grave matter." Noting that the "ruling authority, which is too scared to face the Islamic Alliance in free and fair elections, could not bear to see some Islamic leaders requesting certificates showing clean records in preparation for fighting the elections as candidates." Hence it fabricated false and provocative charges against them, including that of forming a previously unannounced party, the Egyptian Reform Party.

It compares this action to the authority's lack of action following a press report saying that three constituent

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members of the al-Sadat Party, which will be announced soon, represent the Jewish community and that the sole purpose of the party is full normalization with Israel. In conclusion, the author asks whether "the people will act and go to the ballot boxes to declare that it is not a minor or restricted group anymore, that it has a will, that this regime should disappear, and that the people should be governed by a fairly and properly-elected government that seeks to achieve the people's interests and not those of the ruling class.

CHARGES AGAINST DETAINED MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS REBUTTED

A 1,200 word article by Khalid Yunus on page 3 refutes the allegations made by the state against the first group of Muslim Brotherhood members whose trial began on 30 September. The writer says that the absence of evidence and witnesses against the defendants during the session was a startling surprise, adding that this lack of evidence extends to the report on the defendants' arrest and the search of their houses. He says the same thing happened with the second group of Muslim Brotherhood members arrested on Monday [9 October].

He ridicules the Interior Ministry's statement which alleged that they were preparing to incite the masses and notes this referred to the election papers of the Muslim Brotherhood candidates. He says the Interior Ministry's statement "reveals the real reason for this blow to the Muslim Brotherhood when it referred to a plot by the masses to take action during the parliamentary elections. This confirms that the brotherhood's involvement in the elections is the reason for the attack on them."

As to the allegation that the detained brothers had in their possession papers concerning the establishment of a "reform" party, the writer says this is not a crime. He asserts that the cards of foreign intelligence operatives seized with them are really the cards of members of official diplomatic missions in Cairo and the Muslim Brotherhood's contacts with foreign organizations meant only human rights groups and organizations. The report then deals with the material seized from the houses of some of the detainees and lists them mostly as personal computers, discs containing educational and religious information, books openly sold in the markets, and data relevant to the work of those arrested. He concludes by saying that what was seized from the Muslim Brotherhood members were "no more than educational books that deal with the reform of the individual and society, books that explain the ways of preaching, in addition to some press and professional associations' publications. The law does not make possession of this material a crime. They do not harm the security and safety of society and the homeland, do not represent an attack on public freedoms, and do not contain ideas hostile to public order as the Constitution stipulates."

CANDIDATES URGED NOT TO FORGET 'MASSACRED' POW'S ISSUE

A 120-word column by Tal'at Rumayh on page 4 urges the candidates in the parliamentary elections not to forget the issue of the Egyptian prisoners killed by the Israelis in the war. He says that "the issue of the massacred prisoners is not an ordinary crime. It is not just a war crime, but also a national crime in the first place. If the young do not find anyone to defend them and if the tragedy is repeated, can we then claim the right to prepare them to confront the Zionist-imperialist invasion?"

MEETING DISCUSSES CONDITIONS OF PRISONERS

A 1,500-word report by 'Amr Salman on page 6 details one of the periodic meetings that the Labor Party's womens' secretariat holds with families of detainees and prisoners. The meeting this time was with the families of those detained in the al-Wadi al-Jadid Prison. It began with a review of the prison conditions and treatment of detainees. Lawyers attending the meeting admitted that there was gradual improvement in the way the prison administration dealt with the detainees and their lawyers, citing as proof of this that "there has not been a single death in the prison in the past 45 days." The detainees' families complained of their relatives ill treatment in the prison and gave examples of the treatment they received from the prison guards during visiting hours. The meeting ended with a unanimous demand to give priority to sending medicine to the detainees.

ACQUITTED DETAINEE STILL IN PRISON

A 140-word unattributed report on page 6 says that the Interior Ministry continues to refuse to release al-Tuhami Nassar despite a court decision to acquit him after being tried on a charge of terrorism. It adds that he has been in prison since his arrest on 12 June 1993 and is suffering from several diseases that need treatment. The report concludes by voicing an appeal from his family to the president to release him.

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR REFERRING CIVILIANS TO MILITARY COURTS

A 600-word article by Dr. Sa'id Salamah Ibrahim criticizes the decision to refer civilians to military courts. He says that the denunciation of this decision by a large part of society "expresses the people's surprise about a situation unknown to them except in exceptional

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cases." He adds that the laws give the people the right to be tried before civilian courts, while the military courts deal with members of the Armed Forces who have done something that necessitates a trial. The writer goes on to say that the recent decision to refer civilians to military courts reminded the people of the revolutionary courts and the tragedies they have inflicted on the people. Praising the people's cohesiveness with their Armed Forces, he says that the people want these forces to defend and protect them and "never to stand as their judge and executioner."

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP CONDEMNS MILITARY TRIAL OF CIVILIANS

The paper publishes on page 6 the 400-word statement issued by the Supporters of Human Rights Society in Alexandria in which it condemned the referral of the detained Muslim Brotherhood members to a military court. The statement says that "society expresses deep concern over the defendants' referral to military courts on the premise of its principled and constant opposition to referral of civilians to military courts," citing in this instance the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, other charters, and the Egyptian Constitution.

HUSAYN VIEWS ELECTIONS BATTLE, DETENTION OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CANDIDATES

In his regular 4,000-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn dwells on the election issue and the detention of a number of Muslim Brotherhood members. Starting by ridiculing a special edition of AL-MUSAWWAR magazine highlighting the achievements under President Mubarak, Husayn argues that on the contrary, the situation in the region has not changed since the Arabs are more divided than ever. He states that it was Israel that broke its isolation and not Egypt. He adds that corruption under President Mubarak and the National Democratic Party [NDP] has increased and that "the number of those detained without any charge has reached astronomical figures, torture has become routine and brutal, and military courts are daily opening their doors to try new groups." Turning to the magazine's report on security under President Mubarak, he asks: "Has the armed clash with the security forces abated and has security been achieved? Ministers did not need to use armored vehicles 15 years ago but today not a single official moves without such a vehicle to protect him from bullets."

On the economic situation, he says that it has grown worse under the regime and that the gross national product has declined under Mubarak. He challenges the NDP to a television debate to refute these allegations but says he does not expect it to accept this challenge. He then reminds the ruling party of previous warnings to allow fair and free elections as the best way "for peaceful and disciplined change instead of a hurricane of bloody and violent change." Saying that the NDP is intent on rigging the elections, he urges the electorate to go to the ballot boxes and defeat this party, adding that "this time, we must resist the rigging through effective participation and this is easy. O people, o youth and students. We will defeat them and God will give us victory. If millions of us go out into the streets and to the ballot boxes, we will defeat them by God and they won't be able to push or prevent us." He then adds: "We are preparing for the coming elections with this determination. They know this and this is why their blows are coming one after the other to terrorize and confuse us. But their blows only reflect their weakness and confusion. Let the rulers know that every one of us who falls down is replaced by another who is more determined to free the elections from rigging. We will continue the march until the word of the faithful gets the upper hand, God willing."

Moving on to the issue of the campaign against the Islamic Alliance, Husayn says: "It is natural for the government's campaign of oppression to concentrate on the Islamic Alliance because it is the spearhead in the election battle." He exhorts all the opposition forces to reject any division of their ranks and not to remain silent over the attack on the Islamic Alliance, which he describes as an attack on all the forces seeking reform and change. He accuses the regime of arresting Muslim Brotherhood members to prevent them from fighting the elections and mocks the claim that they were arrested because they "are members of a non-existent organization, namely that of the Muslim Brotherhood. How could this organization not exist when it is there for all to see and hear and when your media does not stop talking about its role?"

Moving on to the detained Labor Party members, he asks why they were detained when they are members of a legal party. He refers in this case to his own candidacy and meeting with electors on Friday in the Nasr electoral district when "I was surrounded." He said that there was no march or demonstration but only a walk to greet and talk with those he met. He asked why the security forces "arrested six young men who approached the secretary general of a legal party to greet and listen to him." He concludes by saying that the blow to the Muslim Brotherhood, the referral of AL-SHA'B's chief editor Majdi Husayn to the court under Law 93 for 1995, the application of this same law, and the additional arrests of Muslim Brotherhood leaders are meant "to frighten the candidates and electors." But, he warns the authority,

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that the people, candidates, and voters "will not miss the coming election opportunity. These people, led by the youth and students, are determined to uphold their religion, confront the corrupt on earth, and achieve free elections as the way to peaceful reforms despite your evil intentions."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Janin Liberation 'Starting Point' for State

JN1810154195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat emphasized that the liberation of Janin city and villages will be the real starting point toward the liberation of the West Bank and setting up the independent Palestinian state, whose capital is holy Jerusalem. He said there will be no peace without releasing all female prisoners and detainees.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government at a popular rally on the occasion of inaugurating Janin Municipality, he added that the Palestinian people are taking the first steps on a long road, and are facing a new stage that will begin in Janin.

He urged the city's inhabitants to prepare to receive the Palestinian national security forces and the organs of the National Authority within the next few days.

Hamas Rebuts PA's Claim of 'Imminent Agreement'

MM1810143295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Mufid 'Awwad: "Hamas: No Agreement Can Be Reached With Authority Before Khartoum Dialogue Begins"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Gaza, London, AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT, news agencies — The Islamic resistance movement "Hamas" has described the [Palestinian] Authority's [PA] talk of an imminent agreement between it and Hamas as "a kind of emotional excitement designed to move the Palestinian opposition, represented in Hamas, to positions prepared by the authority."

Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "How can there be an imminent agreement when no dialogue has been initiated or any agenda drawn up for such a dialogue, nor have any of the points of agreements and disagreements over the issues raised been defined."

Ghawshah described what the authority is doing as an attempt to pick the fruit before planting the trees. He accused the authority of "bluffing, and this will not fool Hamas, no matter how many parties participate in the media campaign programmed by the authority."

The authority has said that it was about to reach an agreement on reconciliation. As a goodwill gesture toward Hamas, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat released Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, a senior official in the movement, which he urged last Thursday to participate in the self-rule council elections. [passage omitted]

Ghawshah denied that the PA has succeeded in marginalizing a number of Hamas leaders in the Palestinian territories. He stressed that the movement is one structure inside and outside, and no one can drive a wedge between those inside and those outside, as some of whose in the PA whom Ghawshah described as "claiming to be intelligent" are trying to do. He said that Hamas's program is approved by all the movement's cadres and leaders inside and outside the homeland.

Ghawshah disclosed that the PA has over the past six months tried to isolate Hamas in the Gaza Strip, exploiting the terrorization umbrella through the continued arrest and repression campaigns on the assumption that it can subjugate the movement, but it soon announced its bankruptcy when it agreed to the mediation delegation's traveling abroad, hence tacitly declaring that, with regard to Hamas, both those outside and those inside are the same.

Hamas Figure Seeks Protection for Activists

NC1910085895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, the well-known leading official of the Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement, has declared that the Hamas delegation that will negotiate with the Palestinian Authority [PA] must include representatives from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and areas outside of these territories. He explained that this would end any speculation about internal division in the movement.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published today, al- Zahhar adds that it is necessary to have an Arab observer during the Hamas-PA talks. He also called for holding the talks abroad to distance them from the tension inside the occupied territories.

Dr. al-Zahhar stressed that Hamas is determined to reach agreement with the PA and declared that Hamas never considered precipitating a civil war. He noted that Hamas has tolerated a lot from the PA and overlooked

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many PA errors in order to avoid overt confrontation with it.

He added that Hamas has succeeded in thwarting the Israeli scheme to drag it in to war with the PA. He said that "the PA and the Palestinian public have admitted that there was such a scheme."

Al-Zahhar urged that the lives and future of Hamas military personnel be protected after an agreement with the PA is reached.

Yasin Reportedly Changes Stance on Elections

JN1810201495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Yasin [founder of Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas] has said that Hamas is committed to the agreements signed between the National Authority [Palestinian Authority] and Israel. He added that Hamas also adheres to the regulations banning possession of unlicensed weapons, the supremacy of law and establishments, and the right of everyone to take part in the Palestinian National Authority. Yasin's statements were made during a meeting today with Talab al-Sani', member of the Israeli Knesset, who visited him at the prison.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine, al-Sani' said he sensed a change in Yasin's position. He attributed this change to the new facts that were imposed by the Oslo B agreement. Al-Sani' added that Yasin stressed his support for Hamas' participation in the legislative elections. Nevertheless, al-Sani' noted, Yasin rejected Hamas' participation in the Executive Council.

Leadership Struggle at Gaza Fatah Congress

MM1810134695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Mufid 'Awwad: "Struggle for Fatah Leadership Between the Movement's Cadres and Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Some Fatah Central Committee members who have just returned from Gaza after participating in the movement's first congress for the northern region in the Gaza Strip, have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the congress sessions witnessed some attempts by some movement members, who are at the same time working in the organs of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], to take control of the voting process in order to secure a regional committee directly affiliated to the PNA, but that these attempts failed completely.

Fatah Central Committee member Sakhr Habash, who is in charge of ideology in the movement, commented on the above, saying that these members' participation in the congress is a procedural error and contravenes the movement's bylaws, in view of the fact that these members are governed by a special electoral system in their institutions and within the scope of their work. He added: In spite of that, we overlooked the statutes and allowed them to participate in the congress, as this is the first Fatah constituent congress, and we did not prevent them from participating, despite the fact that they know very well that they are not entitled to belong to two frameworks within the movement. Habash added: "Whoever wants to work in the Fatah organization must resign from the organ to which he belongs if he is elected by the membership to be a member in the regional committee. It is totally unacceptable to hold two posts despite the attempts by some to do so." Habash stressed that the Fatah congress in the north of the Gaza Strip had chosen Fatah cadres who are aware of the important role to be played by Fatah in the next phase and had entrusted them with the region's leadership. Out of 94 candidates who contested the seats, the following cadres were elected: 'Ala' Yaghi, Nabil al-Kitwi, Kamal 'Abd-al-Nabi, Yazid Huwayhi, Tariq al-Hindi, Amal Hamad, Adham 'Ayid, Fayiz Abu-'Aytah, 'Afaf Abu-Khatir, Jamal Abu-Jabal, Ahmad al-Ashqar, Mithqal Abu-Dahir, Muhammad al-Taluli, Ahmad Abu- Subaytan, and 'Abd-al-Jawwad Ziyadah.

The number of voters was 437 out of 469 congress members. The Fatah Central Committee will choose 11 members from among those elected and name the secretary for the northern region, taking into account the candidates' struggle history, organizational ability, and geographical distribution.

The sixth Fatah congress was held in the homeland, the last five congresses having been held in the diaspora.

According to the contents of the political statement issued by the congress, dubbed the six martyrs congress in reference to the Fatah leaders killed over the recent period, the holding of the congress comes within a comprehensive plan by the Fatah Central Committee to reactivate institutions in the homeland according to new patterns and in the light of objective and intrinsic circumstances reflected by partial and comprehensive developments and changes, most notably the PNA's ability to uphold the Palestinian national choice, especially within the Authority's geographical sphere, and its constant work to build civilian and military institutions and Palestinian society, and in the context of expansion to the other parts of the Palestinian homeland.

The political statement of the Fatah congress revealed clear insights into the "mother party" or the "ruling party" during the next phase by stating: "The transfer of the Palestinian and Fatah decisionmaking center to

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the homeland to become an action center representing Palestinian struggle in the homeland and the diaspora is based on Fatah's constants, political program, and decisions through its cadres and institutions, first and foremost the decisions of the fifth general congress, the Revolutionary Council, and the Central Committee. Therefore, Fatah sees the features and requirements of the phase as follows:

"1. The objective circumstances through which the Palestinian people in general and Fatah have lived have effectively resulted in dispersal and scattering of the population in Palestine and abroad. The organization and struggle were based on these circumstances. However, now that the struggle has taken on another form since the homeland has become the center for organizational work, integration and national organizational unity in the homeland and the diaspora are now the most important factor in Fatah's aspirations for national unity and for the continuation of its march.

"2. Fatah deals with the requirements of progress on the basis of preserving the essence of its mission, namely to confront the occupation to which the Palestinian people have been subjected and to confront the racist soul clinging to the past and its mentality of occupation. From this premise, Fatah will continue to assume its responsibilities in the struggle in order to achieve the aims of the Palestinian people within the framework of the laws of the new phase."

The political statement stressed the following points with regard to Palestine:

1. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is the national framework expressing the people's unity inside and outside Palestine.
2. Palestinian national unity is the guarantee for focusing the people's efforts on trying to achieve its aims, first and foremost an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.
3. To stress democracy in Palestinian society and completely outlaw infighting and division among the ranks and capabilities of the Palestinian people.

3. It has become necessary and essential within the national Palestinian context to focus on major tasks within the framework of the PNA in this phase:

A. Continuing the struggle in order to achieve national independence and confront the challenges ahead.
B. Building the state's institutions, organs, and infrastructure in order to develop the state and initiate a comprehensive development process.
C. Setting up protection [siyaj himayah] in order to continue the independence march and build the state and society. This shield can be achieved by the Palestinian public security forces performing their duties.

With regard to relations with the Arab world, the statement stressed the necessity to lift the blockade, end the Iraqi people's suffering, and lift the blockade on Libya. It also stressed the necessity to reactivate and operate the joint Arab institutions, foremost among them the Arab League, and to change it into a house that would gather the Arab nation, coordinate positions, and put forward joint work plans. The statement also stressed that Arab integration is the basis for any regional or international formula that would link the Arab sides. The statement urged the Arab brothers, on their way to the forthcoming Amman economic summit, to base their decisions on the priorities imposed by the Palestinian necessities, making them the standard and yardstick for undertaking the next steps.

The statement condemned the "nonfraternal" actions against Palestinians in Libya, the necessity to put an end to the policy of mass deportation exercised against the Palestinian people, and the necessity to release the Palestinian prisoners from Arab jails.

From an international perspective, the statement recorded Fatah's appreciation of all types of aid and support presented to the PNA by the donor states, stressing the necessity of keeping promises, so as to enable the PNA to perform its tasks in building [the state]. It also reiterated its thanks and gratitude to the peoples and states which supported the Palestinian people's rights.

With regard to the tasks and struggle issues, the Fatah congress statement focused on accusing Israel of procrastination, evasiveness, renunciation of its commitments to the Palestinian entitlements, and failure to abide by the timetable to implement the agreements concluded, and therefore, in the statement, Fatah reaffirms that it will continue the struggle along the following lines:

1. The firm commitment to continue the struggle for establishing the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.
2. That Jerusalem is Palestine's eternal capital; and the rejection of and resistance to measures by the occupation to strip Jerusalem of its Palestinian identity.
3. The removal of settlements is a basic condition to provide a better atmosphere for the peace process in the region.
4. The commitment to the (1948) refugees' right of return as a sacred right confirmed by international legitimacy.

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5. The commitment to the right of return for the 1967 refugees and all refugees without exception.
6. Prisoners and detainees must be released immediately without delay or bargaining.
7. Hebron is an Arab Palestinian city to which everything applies that applies to the rest of the Palestinian cities.
8. There must be a clear commitment to a withdrawal and redeployment timetable, bearing in mind that evasiveness and procrastination in the timetable is the expression of the occupation mentality that clings to the past.
9. Elections cannot be held if the withdrawal has not been completed from all Palestinian cities and inhabited areas, since elections cannot be held under the occupation.
10. The policy of closure and siege and misuse of Israeli control over crossing points must be ended.
11. Emphasis on the natural and complete right to water, all natural resources, and all financial entitlements of the Palestinian people represented by their National Authority.

Al-Husayni Faults Israeli Handling of Prisoners

JN1810170895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference on the Palestinian female prisoners and detainees in the occupation jails was held at al-Qasabah Theater in occupied Jerusalem today. Faysal al-Husayni and representatives of the Palestinian Prisoner Club and the Palestinian Information Center for Human Rights attended.

Al-Husayni accused the Israeli side of disavowing its commitments toward the prisoners, and expressed surprise at the way in which the subject of female prisoners was handled, especially subjecting them to an amnesty from the Israeli President Ezer Weizman and the commander of the so-called central region in the occupation army.

Sha'th Terms Donor States Conference 'Positive'

JN1810171495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Preparatory meetings for the Donor States Conference began in Paris today. Participating in this conference are delegations representing all the states that pledged to extend assistance to the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian delegation, headed by Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, met with delegations representing the United States, Norway, France, Egypt, and the European Community.

Dr. Sha'th said the preliminary meetings were positive. He noted that the Palestinian side has proposed integrated projects in the fields of development and services to be carried out in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Quray' Comments on Steering Committee Meeting

JN1810175095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli Steering and Monitoring Committee held a meeting at the Local Government Ministry in the city of Jericho this evening. Minister of Economy Ahmad Quray', who headed the Palestinian side, stated that the talks dealt with the formation of various committees to follow up the implementation of the Taba agreement calling for the withdrawal of the occupation forces from West Bank cities and villages, releasing female and male prisoners, holding elections, and deploying the Palestinian forces in areas from which the occupation army will withdraw.

In a statement to the Voice of Jericho Radio, Ahmad Quray' described the Steering and Monitoring Committee as one of the most important committees. It will oversee the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles accord. Quray' added:

[Begin Quray' recording] This is the first meeting of the committee, considered one of the most important committees, which will follow up and monitor the implementation of the agreement in a cooperative and constructive spirit. Just as the formulation of the agreement is difficult, its implementation is also difficult. Therefore, it needs a joint Palestinian-Israeli effort to implement it in the right way. We held intensive talks today on several issues. We discussed the formation of various committees to follow up the implementation of the agreement, including redeployment, security arrangements, elections, and the prisoners' issue, which is a top priority and whose conditions have not yet been met; the circuit roads in the Hebron area and complaints about them. We also tackled the deployment of the Palestinian forces, the transfer of civilian powers, and outstanding issues such as electricity and water. [end recording]

The Israeli side in the meetings of the Steering and Monitoring Committee was headed by Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the Palestinian file is moving from the Israeli Defense Ministry to the Foreign Ministry for the first time since 1967.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by Jamil al- Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs; Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, official in charge of the

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Liaison Committee; Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabir, commander of the National Security Forces in the West Bank; Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, official in charge of the Preemptive Security in the West Bank; and Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation. On the Israeli side, the talks were attended by Oren Shahor, coordinator of the occupation authorities in the West Bank; 'Uzi Dayan, head of the Planning Office in the occupation army; and David Shahaq, head of the Civil Administration in the West Bank.

PA Seeks King Husayn Aid for Abu-Marzuq Release

TA1910111895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] is organizing an effort to secure the release of Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] political bureau, who is being held in the United States. The action is part of the PA-Hamas conciliation attempt. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Ben-Menahem] On Yasir 'Arafat's orders, Salim al-Za'nun, acting Palestine National Council chairman, met yesterday with King Husayn. At the meeting, which addressed various issues, al-Za'nun made a request on behalf of the PA for Jordanian assistance in the efforts to secure the release of Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas political bureau, who is being held by the United States. King Husayn promised to grant the request and to inform Abu-Marzuq of his decision.

Several Islamic centers in the United States have sought the PA's assistance in obtaining Abu-Marzuq's release, and Abu-Marzuq himself wrote to Salim al-Za'nun on the matter.

The PA is afraid that Abu-Marzuq's extradition to Israel would harm the peace process in the region and have an adverse effect on the PA-Hamas conciliation efforts. 'Arafat has expressed willingness to meet with Nadia al-Ghashah, Abu-Marzuq's wife, during his next visit to the United States.

The PA is about to take additional confidence-building steps vis- a-vis Hamas. It is supposed to release two more Hamas leaders from jail: Shaykhs Salama al-Safadi and Sayyid Abu-Musamih.

Israel's greatest concern is the continuation of terror. Israeli security elements said they have no information indicating that the Hamas military arm is party to the contacts with the PA and that, therefore, there is no guarantee that it will stop the terror attacks. Any agreement, they say, must include the Hamas military arm.

Police Receive 45 Russian Personnel Carriers

JN1810175895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 95

[From the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Ziyad al-Atrash, head of the military liaison committee, has confirmed that the Palestinian police have received 45 Russian armored personnel carriers which arrived to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing.

Al-Atrash told Voice of Palestine that these personnel carriers are a gift from the Russian Government, and the Palestinian police will use them to protect Palestinian public institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PA To Receive 45 Personnel Carriers From Egypt

TA1710190395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening 45 personnel carriers will arrive from Egypt at the Rafah crossing en route to the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that these personnel carriers will be transferred to the West Bank areas with the start of the Israeli Defense Forces' redeployment and the entry of the Palestinian police to these areas.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Secret' Talks on Permanent Accord Reported

TA1910075095 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 19 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] For some time now, Israeli and PLO representatives have been conducting secret negotiations in Gaza on a permanent arrangement for Judaea and Samaria, HATZOFE has learned from political sources.

As far as is known, the Israeli team consists of the same people who conducted the secret Oslo negotiations. It is headed by Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin and by academia members Dr. Ron Pundaq, Dr. Yizhar Hirshfeld, and Yosi Alpher, an expert on the Middle East whose plan serves as the basis for the talks. Other participants are left-wing intellectuals, including a well-known writer. The format of the talks is similar to that of the Oslo discussions and consists of purely academic discussions with the option of producing an official political arrangement. Naturally, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is aware of all the

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details of the talks, although it has been learned that he has expressed great pessimism about their prospects for success. PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat is also being apprised of the talks. As in the Oslo talks, however, the team is trying to keep the full and accurate details of the discussions from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin until full agreement is achieved. The participants fear that the prime minister will fiercely oppose certain Israeli concessions, such as ceding Israeli sovereignty in the Jordan Rift Valley, and they hope to be able to present Rabin with a complete package deal that he will be unable to oppose.

Our correspondent has learned that Rabin's bureau claims that these talks — if they are indeed taking place — are being conducted without the prime minister's approval and without any authorization and that the prime minister knows nothing about them. According to them, Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin [title as published] has been acting privately and independently.

The Israeli proposal to the PLO is based on Middle East expert Yosi Alpher's plan (which was accepted by radical left-wing figures, such as Minister Yosi Sarid), according to which most of the territory of Judaea and Samaria — 89 percent — would come under Palestinian sovereignty, with 11 percent being retained by Israel. This 11 percent is populated by 70 percent of the Jewish settlers of Judaea and Samaria. The territory includes the divide line up to 5-6 km from the Green Line in western Samaria (excluding Palestinian enclaves on both sides of the Green Line); a "banana-shaped" Israeli territorial strip up to Ari'el; a strip along the Bet Horon road up to Jerusalem; and Greater Jerusalem, including Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, Efrat, and the 'Etzyon Bloc.

According to the proposal, the Jordan Rift Valley will not remain under Israeli sovereignty, although it will be recognized as a territory of vital military importance to Israel in which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will continue to deploy. Jerusalem will be enlarged to become Greater Jerusalem, with the annexation of the Jewish settlements of Pisgat Ze'ev, Giv'at Ze'ev up to Ma'ale Adumim, and possibly even Har Gilo and Betar. The Arab villages of al-'Ayzariyah and Abu-Dis in the east and al-Ram in the north will also be annexed to Jerusalem. After these annexations are carried out, the enlarged Jerusalem will be divided into Israeli and Palestinian sectors, in accordance with demographic composition: City areas settled by Arabs will serve as the Palestinian capital, while those settled by Jews will become part of Israeli Jerusalem, although in practical terms, the city will remain undivided.

Our correspondent has learned that one of the proposals conveyed to the Palestinians suggests that Israel, in exchange for retaining 11 percent of the territory of Judaea and Samaria, will hand over to the Palestinians several Sharon and Triangle Arab villages which are not separated from the Green Line by Jewish settlements. The proposal refers to villages such as al- Tayyibah, Jatt, Baqa al-Gharbiyyah, Barta'a, 'Ar'ara, Umm-al-Fahm, and others. No Jewish population separates these villages from the Green Line.

In addition, the PLO was offered its own dock at Ashdod Port and its own terminal at Ben-Gurion Airport. Gaza will be linked to Judaea and Samaria by a special extraterritorial road. Contrary to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal to build a suspended road supported by pillars, the Israeli team suggested building a land road that will be under Palestinian sovereignty, with Israelis being allowed to cross it from north to south.

Our correspondent has also learned that one of the sessions addressed the possibility of the Jewish settlements that will remain in Judaea and Samaria not being evacuated and their residents being allowed to remain Israeli nationals under Palestinian sovereignty. In return, the Palestinians demanded that Israeli Arabs be allowed to receive Palestinian citizenship while remaining residents of Israel. The idea was not rejected by the Israeli representatives.

Our correspondent has also learned that several participants in the secret talks recently approached a few moderate right-wing elements and asked them to consider supporting the proposals. To make their case, they pointed to the option of Israeli Arab citizens claiming Palestinian citizenship and thereby waiving their Israeli citizenship — regardless of whether they remain residents of Israel or their villages join the Palestinian sovereignty — as a way to increase "the Jewish majority" in the State of Israel. Our correspondent has learned that some of the right-wing figures who were informed of the proposal admitted that the idea of Israeli Arabs receiving Palestinian citizenship is acceptable to them in principle, even if it involves transferring territory under Israeli sovereignty to Palestinian rule.

Our correspondent notes that Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin has stated several times recently that the negotiations on the interim agreements should be terminated and that the sides should proceed directly to the permanent arrangement. He was demonstratively optimistic about the permanent arrangement's success. It is possible that these secret talks serve as the basis for the economy and planning minister's unmistakable optimism.

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Algeria

Adda on FIS Stance on Elections, Armed Action

MM1910112195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 6

[Interview with Abdelkarim Ould Adda, member of the FIS Executive Committee, by Nadyah Mahdid in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mahdid] Do you not think that the accusations exchanged between the regime and the opposition, which you represent, as regards the internationalization of the Algerian crisis are attributable to the fact that both are unable to make decisions and thus are looking for international support to grant credibility to their decisions?

[Adda] The Algerian issue was actually internationalized when the putschists attacked the people's choice. If we go back to the historic sequence of events, we will find that the putschist military regime in Algeria made contacts with a number of states to study and coordinate ways of combating the terrorist phenomenon. With regard to internationalizing the issue, if the other party [the regime] had allowed the opposition parties to meet inside Algeria, they would not have met in a foreign country. However, the meeting abroad was not aimed at internationalizing the issue. It was an opportunity for the opposition to meet in a secure atmosphere in order to study the foundations for a peaceful negotiated solution to the Algerian crisis.

[Mahdid] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] signed the National Covenant. What prompted you to join the covenant? And how did the three fronts manage to agree among themselves?

[Adda] The FIS has on many occasions stressed its adoption of a peaceful method to bring about change. The stages through which political action has passed, from the start of pluralism to the deadlock stage, show that the FIS, despite the injustice it has suffered, has always chosen the road of peace, not confrontation. The Algerian people resorted to armed confrontation only when they were forced to do so by the military. When the idea of holding a meeting of the influential opposition emerged, and when the opposition parties displayed their good intentions as regards the search for a just, negotiated, political solution, the FIS responded to the call to work for a peaceful solution that spares blood and restores the people's dignity and freedom, hence the FIS' participation to prepare the foundations for a solution.

The covenant includes the three fronts which had an influential presence in the first legislative elections, and other parties not formed by the regime.

[Mahdid] Who took the initiative to prepare these foundations?

[Adda] There were extensive contacts among those who care about the interests of Algeria — people and territory. They thought about a way to extricate the country from the region. So they — and I do not want to provide details here — were able to unite the ranks.

[Mahdid] The meeting held in London last Saturday was headed by Shaykh Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the Tunisian al-Nahdah Movement. What has he to do with the topic of the meeting, which dealt with purely Algerian matters?

[Adda] Actually the meeting was a platform for the FIS to express its position and opinion on new developments on the Algerian scene. The meeting was called for by the National Liberation Front official. It was not a mini meeting of the covenant parties. It was an opportunity to express our opinion of what is happening in Algeria.

Shaykh Rached Ghannouchi was assigned to preside over the meeting because the meeting had been arranged through cooperation between Abdelhamid Brahimi's society and Ghannouchi's society, which is interested in what is happening on the Maghreb scene. So there were two heads of that session. They both delivered speeches. Brahimi delivered his first, then Ghannouchi delivered his.

[Mahdid] What is the link between the FIS and the Tunisian al- Nahdah Movement at present?

[Adda] Our relations with all Islamic movements are relations of brotherhood dictated by Islam before anything else. They are relations of exchanging views and dialogue over ideas concerning the Islamic plan, that is all. With regard to coordination among ourselves, each movement operates individually.

[Mahdid] In your view, is the FIS capable of uniting all the armed Islamic groups operating in Algeria under its banner?

[Adda] All I can say is that armed action or armed confrontation was a reply to the denial of the people's choice and the lack of prospects of political actions. So if conditions for political actions are secured, a relaxation is achieved, and the people are allowed to choose — freely and safely — their own project and the men needed for this project, then the causes of the conflict will have been eliminated.

If the causes of the confrontation are eliminated, we believe that the causes of the deadlock will have been eliminated, hence allowing the political jihad to return to the scene. And then the military jihad would be halted, because the armed jihad is a means, not an end.

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[Mahdid] Do you mean that you should be allowed to engage in political action, that is, that the FIS should be rehabilitated?

[Adda] Yes, the FIS should be rehabilitated and the people allowed to choose their representatives freely.

[Mahdid] Why do the National Covenant group parties, including the FIS, not issue a statement urging a halt to violent operations as a goodwill gesture and an affirmation that they are — if necessary — capable of reactivating the foundations of the National Covenant?

[Adda] We believe that as long as the people are denied their political rights and as long as their rights are denied, they are entitled to confront those who have usurped power and legitimacy by all possible means. We do not regard fighting tyranny and dictatorship as violence, but, rather, as the peoples' sacred right to regain their freedom. Thus the FIS and the other parties to the National Covenant document have been able to define the stages through which — if there is goodwill on the regime's part — this confrontation can be halted.

[Mahdid] The Algerian press reported that Madani Mezrak, commander of the Islamic Salvation Army, has been killed. Can you confirm this report?

[Adda] We have no information about that. However, we think it is untrue.

[Mahdid] Mezrak announced recently that the political comments and statements made by Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS parliamentary mission in the United States, have nothing to do with the FIS' official position. What truth is there in this? And what is Haddam's relationship to the FIS at present?

[Adda] The FIS leadership is known both inside and outside the Algeria. The Front has its political official who heads its Executive Committee abroad. He is brother Rabah Kebir.

[Mahdid] Do you not believe that the political violence that has dominated Algeria for four years has changed the political map and perhaps influenced the orientations of the Algerian citizen or voter?

[Adda] We believe that the FIS still enjoys the people's confidence. If it was otherwise, the regime would have held formal elections without any objection. The FIS' opposition is the result of the Algerian people's confidence in it. The people are a means of exerting pressure on the regime in Algeria.

[Mahdid] Among which groups of society do you believe the FIS still has a chance of victory and support in the event of its rehabilitation?

[Adda] All groups of the people.

[Mahdid] What is your opinion of the position of the more deprived groups of the Algerian people who are suffering more than others from political violence and its adverse effects on economic life in Algeria?

[Adda] Actually all the people, including state employees and ordinary citizens, are suffering from the critical situation in Algeria. This situation is the result of the crisis. With regard to the group you think is suffering more than others, it is because their needs are greater. What the Algerian people are suffering is tantamount to a punishment for their previous choice.

[Mahdid] How do you view the presidential elections scheduled to be held in Algeria on 16 November?

[Adda] We do not consider them elections. Our position is clear, namely we reject that farce. We consider these elections a maneuver by the regime to stay in power.

We as an independent party, together with our political partners, have urged nonparticipation in these elections. We will use all possible political means to abort these elections before and after they are held.

[Mahdid] Do you not think that Liamine Zeroual's election as president by the people would reinforce his position to bring about an effective dialogue dynamic?

[Adda] We believe that these elections are not aimed at enabling the people to have their say freely. They are elections aimed at enabling the regime to extricate itself from the crisis it is experiencing. So they are elections for the clique, not the people. We say that these elections are neither legitimate nor credible.

[Mahdid] If the FIS is rehabilitated, would you participate in the legislative elections which the regime intends to prepare for after the presidential elections?

[Adda] We refuse to participate in elections in which the objective conditions for any election are not available. The current situation in Algeria does not allow any legitimate electoral process. The legitimate institutions which should supervise these elections do not exist. Thus before talking about any elections, preliminary steps must be taken, beginning with a halt to the bloodshed and the creation of a security atmosphere that secures for individuals the freedom to choose without any intimidation or fear.

[Mahdid] President Zeroual is to meet with a number of European and Arab heads of state on the periphery of the UN meetings. Does that not prove the futility of the National Covenant group's request for an international boycott of the regime in Algeria?

[Adda] Rights cannot be lost. We believe that the Algerian people are suffering injustice. Our work with

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out political partners is aimed at recovering the people's rights. And we will continue to make every effort with our partners to try to persuade world public opinion to support the peoples' rights.

[Mahdid] Why do you reject the principle of a meeting at the United Nations between President Zeroual and French President Jacques Chirac?

[Adda] We condemn French President Jacques Chirac's statement in which he announced that he would meet with Zeroual. We consider this position blatant interference in our country's internal affairs. The meeting itself shows bias on Chirac's part toward the military regime in Algeria. So we regard it as support from him for those advocating an eradicationist solution to a peaceful, negotiated political solution.

We see his position as an act of defiance of the Algerian people, who are represented by the National Covenant parties. And normalizing relations with the regime in Algeria is an encouragement for the putschists to stay in power. We also reject the positions of the Arab League and the United Nations sanctioning the elections and granting legitimacy to illegitimate elections.

[Mahdid] Following the recent bombings, the French authorities launched a large-scale arrest campaign against the Algerian community. In your view, what is the reason for the campaign, and how credible are the reports concerning the young man Kelkal?

[Adda] The FIS does not object to the French Government's decision to pursue or interrogate anyone who uses bombs to kill innocent people, since we reject that both religiously and as a principle.

All we have asked for is to reveal who is behind these operations. What we condemn and reject is the use of the campaign to pursue those who use bombs as an excuse to harass Muslims in France, pursue political oppositionists abroad, or even harm the Algerian community's dignity. As for the immigrant Kelkal, we have no information about him. However, he is second-generation Algerian in France.

[Mahdid] Can you tell us why children, women, and the elderly are killed, when they have never been a party to the political conflict in Algeria?

[Adda] We have on several occasions — in our debates or statements — stressed that we condemn any excesses or acts of murder against innocent civilians, be they children, elderly, women, employees, or intellectuals. We reject that completely on the basis of religion. Because the FIS' policy is clear on how to confront the regime. Our problem is with those who denied the people's choice and who are oppressing the people now. No one else is our target.

[Mahdid] Do you consider journalists a party to the conflict?

[Adda] We are against any excesses aimed against any group of the people, be it a journalist, an intellectual, or a child, if he is proved not to have participated in oppressing the people.

[Mahdid] So who kills the journalists and others?

[Adda] I believe that the quarter that rejects those kind of actions has declared its condemnation, and the quarter that committed the action has claimed responsibility for it.

[Mahdid] But do the armed Islamic movement's actions serve the interests of the Islamic project in Algeria? Is it not evidence of a clash between two different Islamic projects?

[Adda] We believe that the people's right to defend their achievements and resources is sacred. We also believe that resistance is legitimate. Thus the means should be legitimate. Hence our condemnations of those operations are designed to defend the project's splendor and the resistance's purity.

[Mahdid] Does that mean that you are not against the moves being made in Algerian villages to form squads to confront these armed groups and protect themselves?

[Adda] We believe that the militias have not been set up to provide protection for the people. They are militias organized and armed by the regime. Reda Malek demanded that they be formed when he was prime minister. We fear that the distribution of arms to groups of the people might result in a major catastrophe if the crisis intensifies in the future.

The difficulty lies in controlling and retrieving the arms distributed to the people.

[Mahdid] Are you making any contacts with the authorities in Algeria?

[Adda] Contacts ceased after the recent meeting which the regime announced was a failure.

FIS Leader: Pasqua Policy Bred Radicalization

BR1810151995 Paris LIBERATION in French 18 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Jose Garcon: "FIS Mediation Is Completely Finished"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Exclusion, marginalization, and rejection by the West: Are these three things enough

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to explain why certain marginalized social groups in the French suburbs one day turn to violence? For certain young people, who are vaguely aware of Islam's "message" of social justice, one problem seems to have weighed heavily: the lack of a framework.

In 1992, 1993, and even in 1994, the presence in France of Islamist officials from the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], who had fled Algeria after the halting of the electoral process in December 1991, made it possible to temper the zeal of that very small minority that wanted to "punish France for supporting the Algiers junta." At that time, Islamist officials, particularly active within the French Algerian Fraternity, firmly deterred them from getting involved in that kind of adventure. "Whatever position France takes, we have neither the resources nor the strategy to bring the war here. It would be lost before it was begun," they said, referring to the myth of the Federation of France of the National Liberation Front at the time of the war of independence in order to deter the "most active" activists. The role of immigration, they explained in substance, is the same as it was during the war: Finding money and distributing pamphlets and publications in order to speed up mobilization.

"That had the merit of convincing them that they were nevertheless doing something 'for the cause,' and transferring their revolutionary tendencies and energies to the political arena," says a FIS official today who has sought refuge in Great Britain. "At worst, they tried to smuggle arms into Algeria. In any case, that would not have changed the course of the conflict. Today, they are keeping the arms in France."

The French police obviously believed in this [FIS] "mediation" so much that at that time they called a meeting of Islamist leaders and threatened to put them on the "first plane to Algiers" if a single bomb went off in Paris.

Today, one FIS leader feels that "by not making any distinctions at all, [former Interior Minister] Pasqua's all-out raids of Islamist quarters have destroyed their framework, encouraged the transition to working underground, and opened the way to all kind of radicalization. Now, all you have to do is express your hatred for the West and you will be heard by young rebels who can be encouraged to strike out at France because France has struck out at their brothers and because France gives arms to the junta. Today, the only news the most active 'activists' receive comes on GIA [Armed Islamic Group] cassettes from Algiers. Furthermore, nobody can say who exactly is encouraging the violence: All you have to do is say that you are part of the Algerian underground, that you have a radical rhetoric, and cassettes from the armed groups." There is a problem of "political void" which many policemen will not deny.

"Pasqua might well have made the same mistake as the Algerian military," a French diplomat explained, "cutting off the foundations of their officials and letting hatred win out, a move which contributed toward filling out the ranks of the GIA underground in Algeria and making it impossible in France to advocate — with any credibility — a form of Islamism that calls for compliance with republican laws. Instead, we are faced with an Islamist movement which also evokes the concept of 'self-defense' with regard to France." That leaves one question: Were not the deterioration of the situation in Algeria, a FIS "outmoded" by the bloody build-up of the GIA, and the increasingly strong image of a France which "is helping the junta" condemning the conflict to "spill over" into French territory? The ban on any criticism of French policy has, in any case, undoubtedly accelerated things.

Security Services Eliminate 16 'Terrorists'

LD1810201395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fight against terrorism: the security services today announced that sixteen terrorists had been eliminated in the course of various operations in Algiers, Chlef, Blida, Bouira and Boumerdes. On the other hand, a quantity of arms and explosives had been confiscated.

Egypt

Cabinet Views Report on 'Terrorist' Elements

NC1810160895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The cabinet reviewed in its session today under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi the results of President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States, during which he attended the historic signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, held talks with President Bill Clinton, and met with a large number of congressional leaders and members. This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. [passage omitted]

The minister added that the cabinet discussed a report from the interior minister on the forthcoming People's Assembly elections. Dr. Sidqi underlined the government's desire to hold these elections in a democratic way, through an honest competition between all the parties, without any vituperations, and under constitutional legitimacy.

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The interior minister reviewed in his report the arrest of 61 individuals belong to a terrorist organizations' military wing, in addition to 43 others from the Islamic groups in the areas of al-Tibbin and Hulwan who were planning operations targeting police officers and policemen and aiming to ignite sectarian sedition and spread terrorism.

Minister al-Sharif said that the interior minister's report asserted that all the procedures taken to monitor and arrest these element were carried out within the framework of the law. It also underlined the extent of the involvement of Muslim Brotherhood leaders in secret and illegal organizational work which could not be tolerated.

The cabinet stressed that the confrontation of terrorist and criminal elements will continue very decisively in accordance with the constitution and law. [passage omitted]

Brotherhood-Labor-Liberal Alliance Viewed

NC1810172595 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 12-18 Oct 95 , p 2

[News analysis by Amirah Huwaydi: "Islamist Allies Part Ways"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Analysts believe that the switch from the slate to the individual candidacy system in the approaching parliamentary elections has made redundant an eight-year-old alliance between the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and the Labour and Liberal parties. The tripartite coalition was forged prior to the 1987 elections to make it possible for Brotherhood figures to run on the Labour-Liberal slates. But in the forthcoming ballot, expected at the end of November, the analysts argue that Brotherhood members no longer need the official backing of their erstwhile allies because they can contest the elections as independents. Despite denials by Brotherhood, Labour and Liberal officials, the first sign that the alliance might have been overtaken by events emerged two weeks ago when the Labour Party's mouthpiece, AL-SHA'B published a 10-point statement expounding the party's position. This contrasted sharply with what the three allies did in 1987 when they published a joint manifesto, spearheaded by the Brotherhood's motto "Islam is the solution." This slogan was missing from the Labour Party's published programme this year.

Labour Party insiders also say that opposition to the continuation of the alliance was mounting in party ranks as a result of the government's crackdown on the Brotherhood. "The Labour Party may end up paying the price," said a party source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The Brotherhood's actions and ideas, which are unacceptable to the government, are mistakenly thought by officials to be ours as well and we could end up losing our credibility."

In the view of Diya' Rashwan, an expert on political Islam, the tripartite alliance has already collapsed. "There are conflicting positions within the Labour Party concerning the relationship with the Brotherhood and the survival of the alliance," he said. "Moreover, the Labour Party found itself being dragged into a battle which does not concern it, as a result of the measures taken by the government against the Brotherhood. It should be pointed out that the Brotherhood's policy of escalation, in response to the government's measures, runs counter to the more peace-oriented policy of the Labour Party."

Rashwan said that many Labour members want the party to content itself with providing only moral support to the Brotherhood.

And yet Brotherhood, Labour and Liberal officials continue to insist that their alliance is as strong as ever. "The close relations between those who forged the 1987 coalition have not changed," insisted Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mum al-Hudaybi. "There is coordination between us despite the switch to the individual candidacy system. This can be seen on the ground. Members of the coalition are not running against each other in the same constituency."

Despite this assertion, al-Hudaybi himself is running in the Cairo constituency of Dokki against al-Hamzah Di'bis, a high-ranking official in the Liberal Party. al-Hudaybi apparently decided to nominate himself in Dokki because Adel Husayn, Labour's secretary-general, is running in Heliopolis, al-Hudaybi's own constituency.

Di'bis, who has contested elections in Dokki for years, said he had not been informed of any coordination between the Liberal Party and the Brotherhood. But Liberal leader Mustafa Kamal Murad insisted that there was "total coordination between us and the Brotherhood".

Brotherhood figures are also running against Labour Party members in several constituencies outside Cairo. These include Talkhah in the Daqahliyah, governorate, where the Brotherhood's Mus'ad al-Zayni is running against Amim Dakruri, the Labour Party's provincial secretary-general. Efforts are being made to avoid a repetition of the Talkhah situation in the constituencies of Usim and Hawamdiyah in the Giza governorate and Al-Raml in Alexandria.

Naji al-Shihabi, Labour's assistant secretary-general for election affairs, said that as a result of the switch to the individual candidacy system the "alliance" had been

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replaced by "coordination". Asked about mounting opposition within Labour to cooperation with the Brotherhood, al-Shihabi said that Labour leader Ibrahim Shukri "will not withdraw from an eight-year-old coalition just because the Brotherhood is having a hard time. It is against his ethics." But he conceded that Labour would be paying a price if "coordination" meant the withdrawal of some of its candidates in favour of Brotherhood figures.

As for the Liberal Party, Rashwan believes it has no place in the coalition. "It is clear from the many newspapers which it publishes - Naserist socialist and Islamist - that it does not even represent what is called the Islamist trend, but is a mosaic of mixed ideas. How can it fit into an Islamist coalition?"

Police Raids Net 107 Islamic Suspects

NC1810120495 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Minya, Egypt, Oct 18 (AFP) — Security forces arrested 107 suspected Moslem militants in southern Egypt in a massive sweep involving more than 2,000 policemen over the past week, police said here Wednesday [18 October].

The raids also netted 1,367 others involved in non-political crimes, mostly assaults or murders connected with feuds between families in the southern province of al-Minya, police said.

The police raided apartments and combed agricultural fields in villages and towns throughout the week in the southern region of the province around Mallawi and Abu Qurqas towns, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Cairo.

Police said 89 of the 107 militants detained were from the "secondary ranks of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah," the main armed group, while the other 18 were still being investigated.

The raids, for which extra security forces were brought in from Cairo and northern Egypt, also netted 15 illegal weapons, including two machine guns, police said.

The security operation came after a wave of attacks by Moslem militants earlier this month in the area which killed seven policemen, seven civilians and seven militants.

The region has seen "a cautious calm" over the past week, with no attacks reported, "although the terrorist elements are still there and have not left," a police source said. He added that the militants killed this month by police have not been identified, "meaning new terrorist elements have recently joined those already known by police."

The al-Jama'ah is the leading armed group in a militant campaign against the state that has left 893 dead since March 1992.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Farrakhan on March

LD1810174695 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone call has taken place between the brother leader of the revolution and Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam movement in America. The brother leader of the revolution congratulated Louis Farrakhan on the great success realized by the historic march of the blacks which advanced on and violently shook the American capital by peaceful and civilized means. He stressed that this is the way for the blacks to obtain their rights in a worthy manner, and that the right of the nation of blacks can be asserted with regard to enjoying independence and freedom on the American continent. He said: We will unite our capabilities and efforts for that end.

In the course of the telephone call Louis Farrakhan told the brother leader of the revolution that the participation in the march exceeded what was expected. It was not only 1 million blacks who participated in it; the number of participants in the march was doubled to 2 million. The march was very successful. Louis Farrakhan informed the brother leader of the revolution that 8 million blacks who were deprived of their right to vote in the American election will be registered. We pledged to work together so that the black nation can achieve its right in America, and remove racism and discrimination from it, through the use of peaceful means and civil rights, he said.

The brother leader of the revolution reminded Louis Farrakhan that there are 400,000 blacks in the American Army, and this makes the greatest black army in the world.

JANA Editor Comments on Phone Call

LD1810174995 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The JANA international affairs editor has commented on this prominent event in the history of the blacks in America [a phone call between al-Qadhdhafi and Louis Farrakhan] by saying that this was the beginning of what the brother leader of the revolution stressed — in his speech made

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on the festive occasion of all festive occasions, the 26th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih Revolution — regarding the necessity that Muslims, blacks and Arabs in America [words indistinct] as from the forthcoming American presidential election. The editor added that that way Muslims, blacks, and Arabs will have a greater weight than the Jews who control America while they are no more than four million in number throughout America. The Jews who have the right to vote in the American election is less than their total number, while the number of Muslims, blacks, and Arabs is much more than that. The editor reaffirmed that by way of this historic action, the words reiterated by the brother leader on the 26th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih Revolution become a reality so that Muslims, blacks, and Arabs will have some weight and constitute a pressuring force that will affect political life in America to serve the causes of Muslims and Arabs. The international affairs editor concluded his comment by stressing that Muslims, blacks, and Arabs will go into the forthcoming American election with this huge human force, and give their votes to the candidate that leans toward their right to live with dignity on this earth and under the sun, through a legitimate action which is neither terrorism nor secret, nor subversive. [passage omitted]

Arab Council Urged To Discuss Israeli Declaration

LD1810232095 Tripoli JANA in English 2006 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 18, JANA — The secretary of the General People's Committeę for Unity today called the secretary general of the League of Arab States, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, informing him that "following the declaration of the Israeli enemy yesterday, through the Council of Ministers, to wage aggression against Lebanon, the Arab countries, which are party to the Arab Joint Defence Treaty, are required immediately to unite their plans, efforts and take the necessary preventive and defensive measures necessitated by the situation in accordance to Article 3 of the treaty and the provision of Article 6 of the league's charter. Accordingly the situation requires the immediate convening of the joint Arab Defence Council to study the issue and take the necessary measures as required by the charter and the treaty and the Great Jamahiriyah fulfils its pan-Arabist responsibility by taking the initiative inviting the joint Arab Defence Council for a meeting."

The secretary general of the League of Arab States expressed his high appreciation for the pan-Arabist and responsible stance of the Great Jamahiriyah towards the Israeli aggression against sisterly Lebanon which reached a level requiring such measures.

He asserted that he will take immediate measures to invite the Arab countries for a meeting of the Joint Defence Council in implementation of the Arab Defence Treaty on the basis of the request of the secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity and its memorandum calling for this.

Al-Muntasir Meets With Counterparts at Conference

LD1810224995 Tripoli JANA in English 1944 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cartagena, al-Timur [October] 18, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation ['Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir] held meetings on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned foreign minister conference, currently taking place in Cartagena Colombia with the foreign minsters of Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iran, South Africa and Senegal.

The meeting reviewed the agenda items of the Non-Aligned conference and the prospects for co-ordination among sisterly and friendly states.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation also held a meeting with the foreign minister of Ghana. The meeting handled the coordination of the five-member committee which was set up by the Organisation of African Unity to settle the so-called Lockerbie case in conjunction with the seven-member committee of the Arab League.

Sudan

'Sources' Cited on Plan To Oust al-Qadhdhafi

NC1810191195 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Oct 95 p 9

[From 'The Brothers' Page]

[FBIS Translated Text] Knowledgeable Sudanese sources have disclosed that a plot has been hatched by the Sudanese Front to overthrow the ruling regime in Libya. The sources said that the Front had trained a number of Libyan extremists at a camp in Jabal Awliya', 30 km from Khartoum.

The sources added that the Front, in cooperation with some Libyan opposition figures in Europe and the United States, had been drawing up plans since 1992 to attract a number of Libyan youths, who were granted scholarships in Omdurman's Islamic university, to be used for destabilizing the situation in Libya.

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The same sources pointed out that the Front's leading businessmen exploited al-Qadhdhafi's call to Arabs to continue working in the agricultural sector in Libya. They recruited some Libyan youths to serve their schemes, which are aimed at ousting Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's regime. The sources noted that the Front's objective behind overthrowing the Libyan regime is to use it as a bridgehead to move the Front's activities to the Arab North African countries, particularly since Libya has never had any political parties either during al-Qadhdhafi's regime or during the monarchy. This, according to the Front, would make it easier to establish a state similar to Sudan, which is opposed to the idea of parties.

The sources said that the Libyan authorities discovered that Libyan opposition figures have stepped up their activities. Those figures were involved in the events in Banghazi three months ago, which were aimed at overthrowing al-Qadhdhafi. The sources said that the Front's interest in removing al-Qadhdhafi rests in the possibility of exploiting Libya's oil wealth to carry out their schemes in other neighboring countries. At the same the Front would be able to help the Algerian extremists by supplying weapons across the joint border. [sentence as published]

The sources pointed out that the Front's objective is also aimed at improving its relations with the west by handing over the defendants of the Lockerbie case to the United States or Britain in the event it succeeds in overthrowing al-Qadhdhafi. The sources said that unity will immediately be declared between Libya and Sudan upon the removal of al-Qadhdhafi.

The sources added that the declaration of unity between the two countries and the improvement of relations with the west will enable the Khartoum rulers to exploit Libya's wealth to improve the deteriorating economic situation in Sudan. It will also protect the Front's regime from collapsing after the increasing deterioration of the standard of living and the popular wrath.

The sources stressed that the plan to overthrow al-Qadhdhafi has become the only option to save the Front's regime, which is limping as a result of the increasing economic and political pressures.

Minister Taha Comments on Foreign Policies

EA1810123095 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister [Ali Uthman] Taha has expressed Sudan's desire for holding a serious dialogue with the United States in spite of reservations of each country toward the policies of the other.

In an interview with the London-based AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper, Taha said that Sudan is keen to solve its conflict with Egypt in a bilateral context away from the international forums. He also described the allegations made by the Ethiopian President [as heard], Mr. [Meles] Zenawi, on Sudan's harboring of persons involved in implementing and planning the assassination attempt against Egyptian President [Husni] Mubarak as baseless.

The minister further indicated that the problem with some neighbors were based on their stance regarding [the] southern Sudan problem and their support to the outlaw movement.

Mr. Taha explained that other neighbors of Sudan were involved in an imperialist plot aimed at instigating troubles at the region, affirming that Sudan maintains good relations with Chad, Zaire, Central African Republic, Libya and other African countries.

Mr. Taha reiterated Sudan's keenness to strengthen its relations with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, adding that Sudan appreciates the role of Saudi Arabia in boosting Islamic causes, especially its support for the Bosnian people.

He also asserted that all the political detainees in Sudan have been released. Mr. Taha said that Sudan Government is firmly opposed to the self-determination and separation of any part of the country.

Government To Respond to German Ambassador's Remarks

NC1810141295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 18 Oct (MENA)—The official newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH says today that Sudan will vigorously respond [sayarud bi'unf] to the remarks made by the German ambassador at a seminar on 15 October. In his remarks the ambassador said official cooperation between the two countries has reached its lowest ebb because the Sudanese Government has killed students in detention centers.

The newspaper expects that the Sudanese Government will declare the German ambassador persona non grata. It says the ambassador's presence at the Foreign Ministry yesterday morning might be connected with his remarks.

During the seminar the German ambassador asserted that his country cannot stomach a government that kills students in detention centers. He explained that his government deals only with the Sudanese people and with scientists, students, experts, and researchers.

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The Sudanese finance minister, who was attending the seminar, asked him to withdraw his remarks and apologize.

Pardoned Nationals From Iraqi Prison Return Home

EA1710133095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 17 Oct (SUNA) — Some 30 Sudanese nationals, who had been serving prison terms in Iraq and pardoned by the Iraqi president on August 30, returned to Sudan Monday [16 October].

The returnees, speaking to SUNA at Khartoum airport upon arrival, said they had been convicted by Iraqi courts for minor violations such as acquiring of electricity appliances exceeding the number allowed and possession of foreign exchange and that they did not commit any criminal acts.

They underwent medical checks by the medical authorities at Khartoum airport which proved that they are in good health.

Al-Bashir Hails Saddam's Election Victory

EA1810210595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq [title repeated as heard], on the occasion of his election as president of Iraq for the next seven years. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed that the Government and people of Sudan stand with their brothers in Iraq in the face of oppression, despotism, and the unjust blockade imposed on it.

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Bahrain

Shaykh Khalifah Praises UAE's Iraq Stance

JN1910084095 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0535 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 19 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of Bahrain's Defense Force, has hailed the call by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, to achieve Arab reconciliation that would restore Arab solidarity. This call proceeds from the concern for Iraq's unity and for easing the suffering of its people.

Responding to questions by THE GULF NEWS AGENCY, his highness the heir apparent said that Bahrain adopts a clear stand regarding the fragmentation of Iraq and change of its leadership. It rejects tearing up and dividing Iraq. This would pose a serious danger to the unity of the fraternal Iraqi people, constitute a serious disruption of the general balance of power in the region, and violate existing and acknowledged international borders. His highness stressed that Bahrain totally rejects this division under any justification or claim and from whatever source.

His highness said the issue of leadership and the ruling regime in Iraq is a domestic affair that concerns Iraq, its president, and its people. He added that if this principle were applied to every Arab country, the Arab nation would have avoided many problems and regrettable inter-Arab conflicts, which cost us dearly over the past decades and whose price we are still paying. The most prominent of these conflicts is the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and direct interference in its domestic affairs and regime, which led to all the complications we are facing until now.

His highness the heir apparent said it is unacceptable to divide Iraq in any way, since this constitutes a direct threat to the fate of a fraternal Arab people and country. He added: We hope that Iraq will achieve stability and extricate itself from its ordeal in a manner that maintains its security and its role in Arab solidarity, and in protecting the Arab East and Gulf area from threats facing it.

His highness recalled the stand adopted by the major international alliance witnessed in the region. He noted that this alliance was established in order to maintain general legitimacy in the region, as well as preserve the borders and legitimate entities in it. His highness said it is unacceptable to violate this principle when dealing with Iraq and its legitimate borders, or with any existing and acknowledged entity or border.

His highness the heir apparent of Bahrain said double standards in dealing with legitimacy and its applications is the basis of our problems in the Arab region and the Middle East. He noted that the Palestinian people have long suffered from this phenomenon. He said it is hoped that the forthcoming peace will compensate the Palestinian people for this suffering as a result of double standards. In this regard, his highness hoped that these double standards would not be imposed on fraternal Iraq.

His highness said that when the international alliance completed the historic task of liberating the fraternal State of Kuwait, there emerged wise and foresighted Gulf, Arab, and international signals on the need to stop where the task of liberating Kuwait ended.

His highness the commander of the Bahrain Defense Force said that the stand on the Iraqi people's tribulation has become an ethical and psychological predicament for the Gulf countries, as reflected in the statements issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which affirm that ending this tribulation depends on the Iraqi leadership itself before anyone else through its implementation of and commitment to the international resolutions in this respect.

His highness said that Iraq has accepted many important resolutions in this respect. The process of Gulf, Arab, and international accord and understanding should be completed to remove the causes of the tribulation being experienced by the fraternal Iraqi people.

The commander of the Bahrain Defense Force said: From the premise of a frank and genuine pan-Arab position, we ask Iraq to help itself so that it may help us all to overcome this shared dilemma. His highness said he hopes that Iraq's talk of turning over a new page with its Arab brothers is serious and should be carried out without delay.

His highness said that the general political and psychological frame of mind, whether in the Arab Gulf or in the Arab homeland, is now inclined and prepared for a serious Arab reconciliation that would restore Arab solidarity. He said that the welcome given to the call made by His highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, arises from concern over Iraq's unity and the need to end the Iraqi people's tribulations.

On his assessment of the domestic situation in Bahrain, the Bahraini heir apparent and the commander of its Defense Force said that the important fact which all acknowledge is that his highness the amir is the father of all and the leader of the march, and that he has handled the matter with his wisdom, love for his people,

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and paternal tolerance because he is eager to maintain unity and accord in this beloved homeland. From this premise came his initiative to pardon those who were arrested in the recent passing incidents. This preserved the spirit of accord within the one family and confirmed the leadership role his highness has been assuming since the beginning of the march. He said that the national and popular response to this noble amiri initiative came in expressions of appreciation, esteem, and loyalty to the homeland and the amir.

His highness the heir apparent said that all actions that are not in line with this course and depart from loyalty to the homeland and the regime, and all actions that take place at the instigation of foreign quarters in which sabotage and violence are used in violation of the law fall within the category of crimes of high treason, and should be countered with deterrent legal measures. His highness stressed that no responsible state can tolerate such actions or show leniency to their perpetrators. This should be well understood by all.

Concluding his statements, his highness said he is confident the mature and civilized Bahraini people will not allow actions that violate the law and order to protect their march, stability, and security, which are principles around which the command and the people rally.

Kuwait

Crown Prince Warns of 'Another Aggression' by Iraq

JN1810195795 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 10 Oct 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sa'd al-'Unayzi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait: His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah warned of another aggression by Iraq. Speaking at a news conference held at his residential al-Sha'b Palace yesterday, Shaykh Sa'd said: "I say, beware of this man (Saddam). His expansionist goals are still there, he is just waiting for the opportunity." Saddam has a strategy to invade Kuwait again, he said. "When will he start implementing it? Three, six months, a year, two years... God knows. What is required of us is to be on the alert to avert danger to our homeland." "Let all citizens know that the Iraqi regime still holds aggressive intentions, even plans, and is monitoring the regional and international situation to see when is the chance to implement these aggressive intentions."

The crown prince revealed that his statements were based on documented information from reliable sources. "When I visited diwaniyas and talked about the Iraqi danger, it did not come from a vacuum, but was based on documented information regarding the intentions of the Iraqi leader," he added.

Shaykh Sa'd denied a recent press report which quoted him as saying that "the next three months would be the most dangerous in the history of the country."

Kuwait is able to foil any Iraqi attack with the help of its allies, the crown prince said, adding that Kuwaitis have to be in the forefront of any defending forces.

"We can't sit still and watch others protect our country," the prime minister stressed. "We learnt from the invasion to work day and night to deny any chance to the enemy to implement his aggressive goals and his expansionist greed," he continued.

The Kuwaiti government with the help of its allies monitors the Iraqi troop movements throughout Iraq, even in the north. When it receives any information from its reliable sources about Iraqi troop movements, the government takes the proper steps, the premier said.

"Should we pretend it is not there?' Shaykh Sa'd asked.

"Kuwait will counter the Iraqi moves in all arenas—political, economic and military fronts," he continued. Shaykh Sa'd called on the leaders of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states to implement decisions taken and to convert the words into deeds, He said he had told GCC countries not to expect stability in the region as long as Saddam remained in power.

This was also a message to GCC brethren that the next danger will not be limited to Kuwait, he added.

Responding to criticism about not consulting National Assembly members on this serious matter, the prime minister said: "When I called on people to unite, I did not exclude the National Assembly members." He called upon citizens to avoid focusing on "side issues" while forgetting the security of the country. Kuwait is passing through difficult circumstances that require greater cooperation and alertness.

Trying to refute arguments that he was using the Iraqi threat to undermine the National Assembly's Fact-Finding Committee's report, the crown prince said: "Don't look for a scapegoat. I'm the one to bear all the responsibilities (for the invasion) and I have the courage and ability to tell all to the Kuwait people."

He said he will be ready to divulge all information concerning the invasion when the National Assembly discusses its Fact-Finding Report relating to the invasion.

The Fact-Finding Committee issued a report two months ago pinning responsibility for the rapid fall of Kuwait

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on five senior officials, among them being the Crown Prince.

The Full House will tackle the matter in its upcoming session later this month.

On the POWs issue, he said: "We are very disappointed about the outcome of the recent talks between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi teams, but we will still continue holding them."

The decision to prevent any Kuwaiti from meeting any Iraqi official to facilitate the release of the Kuwaiti POWs was his, he said, adding that when he learnt of news that some Kuwaitis will visit Baghdad, he refused.

"We do not kneel... there are UN Security Council decisions Iraq has to implement, among them is the release of the POWs," he said, adding that the Kuwaiti Government agreed to meeting the Iraqi delegation on its soil to facilitate the process for the other teams and to expedite the process.

"If the Iraqis said they do not have information, they can go to al-Basrah the same day and get the information," he quipped.

Responding to criticism about the effects of his earlier (aggression) statement on the stock market, he asked, to applause from the audience: "Should I pursue the security of stock exchange or the security of the country?"

"If there wasn't security, there wouldn't be a stock exchange, or anything beyond the stock exchange. And, if there was security there will be a stock exchange."

Regarding the issue of bedouins, the premier said his government has implemented the second phase of a plant to solve their problem. The matter will be discussed in the Assembly.

This problem requires more study and consultation to reach a "clear solution" to their problem, he said. The government will submit a plant to the Assembly a few days after the start of the upcoming session in order to solve the problem of the bedouins.

Responding to criticism on the lack of decisionmaking in his government, Shaykh Sa'd said: "If there were no decisions taken, then how was the country running in the last few years?"

On the issue of Kuwait's relations with countries that sided with Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait, the premier said there are conditions that these countries have to fulfill before relations can be normalised. Kuwait asked these countries to honour all UN resolutions related to Gulf War. "We need to know where Jordan stands before we take the second step," he added. On Iraq's top-level defector Husayn Kamil, the premier quipped: "We will not go to Jordan to seek information from him."

The crown prince said the Yemeni officials should know that Kuwait is still keen on implementing all its conditions.

Regarding the Hard Debts Law, the premier said it was advanced by the government and passed by the Assembly with minor modifications. this law was passed to be implemented... We await its implementation in December."

There are different views on the survivability of the Iraqi regime and every country has its own views based on its own interests. The Iraqi people are the ones to decide the fate of their leader, he said.

Commenting on the Iraqi poll on Saddam to be conducted on Oct 15, Shaykh Sa'd said: "We will hear the opinion of the Iraqi people, right or wrong. That is not my role."

On the Middle East peace process, he reiterated Kuwait's stance that what the Palestinians see as in their interest now and in the future will be accepted by Kuwait.

Asked whether Kuwait is seeking the return of its loans from countries that sided with Iraq during its occupation, the premier said: "We are concerned more with preventing Iraq from repeating its aggression."

Kuwait will decide within the next two days whether to participate in the economic summit to be held in Jordan this month, he said.

The budget deficit will be solved within the next three to four years, Shaykh Sa'd added. "There are many indicators that make me hopeful."

Asked whether he will support imposing fees and tariffs on services to help solve the deficit, he said the issue will be discussed with the Assembly during the coming session.

But, he reassured, steps will be taken to see that limited-income people will not be affected by any new fees.

Asked whether the rapid change in labour regulations negatively affects the economy, he said laws and regulations are changed due to the changing needs.

To solve the unemployment problem, Shaykh Sa'd said the government welcomed Kuwaitis to join the armed forces and security agencies.

He said reports of high crime rates in the country were exaggerated.

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KUNA Comments on Iraqi Referendum

LD1610180095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1124 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Oct — The president of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, has obtained 99.96 percent of the votes in the referendum that was held to give him another seven-year mandate. This referendum was qualified worldwide as "a sham and a new game" by the regime.

Each game has its rules and results, and the question is: What is the result Saddam is expecting from the referendum that is being rejected worldwide, imposed in Iraq, and all the problems arising from its staging? [as received]

The answer to this question requires us to discuss two issues: First is the timing of the referendum and second is the exploitation of its results.

Regarding the timing, observers of the situation in Iraq can see only the link between the regime's decision to propose the extension of its president's [mandate] to the people through a referendum — for the first time since he took over in 1979 — and the defection of the regime's strong man, Husayn Kamil, to Jordan last August, accompanied by almost half of Saddam's family.

Kamil's political asylum in Jordan has given rise to the biggest question on the extent of the stability of the foundations of power and the popularity and support he has among Iraqi people. There is no doubt that that everybody was saying then: How could Saddam be popular among the masses if he is not popular among his own family?

Resorting to the falsification of the masses and people's will in a referendum or elections is a matter which the world expects from totalitarian regimes that are used to sending their children to the slaughter house of the ballot boxes whenever they want to tighten the noose around their necks.

This fake referendum on Saddam's presidency is the second such popular referendum carried out in the political history of modern Iraq since the British mandate held the first referendum in 1920 on the installation of King Faysal I as king of Iraq.

So why does Saddam want to put the question to his people now after all forms of popular participation have been denied to the Iraqi people and their destiny has become so bleak? Is it to crystallize his power and tyranny or to give a boost to his image and reputation? [passage omitted]

According to AL-SAHRAQ AL-AWSAT [on] 16 October, the formation of the proposed government will be "a coalition, the majority of which is for the al-Ba'th party with all its factions at the rate of 60 percent for the party. The remaining 40 percent is to be distributed among independent ministers and others representing Naserite Arab unionist tendencies, and others — followers of forces known to be democratic, which are close to the Communists, in addition to moderate Islamic personalities."

Whether such a government, if formed, is capable of achieving anything is very doubtful, especially since the impasse in which Iraq is currently living is mainly, in the international dimension, represented by sanctions and the international rejection of dealing with an outlaw regime.

This international community is not whimsical, but governed by resolutions issued by the highest international legislative authority, i.e. the Security Council, and the only way for Baghdad's return to the international fold is the full and undivided compliance with all these resolutions. As it seems, the Iraqi authority has not yet comprehended [that] on account of its continuation to procrastinate and evasive and deceptive operations regarding the international search teams, [as well as] the Kuwaiti prisoners in its prisons.

Thus, the conviction of most of those who follow the situation in Iraq is that any cosmetic change to the form of the regime will be a futile exercise if its deception continues in the same manner [two garbled words] the conditions in Iraq over the coming months "will continue as they are, and as the embargo has been... will continue ...the Kurds in northern Iraq, and the Shi'as in southern Iraq will remain exposed to repression. It is continued chaos, but I cannot see any reason over the coming months which could call for change. Perhaps it could happen, but I cannot see any basic development that convinces me that we are about to see a new Iraq." [quotation not attributed as received]

Unless the Iraqi conditions witness a pressurizing internal action which manipulates the regime's current impasse, its international isolation, the external pressures on it, and the world's refusal to rehabilitate Saddam, the Iraqi door will remain open to all the possibilities.

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Paper Eyes Jordanian Journalist's Report on Iraq

JN1810204095 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 10 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial by Kuwait AL-ANBA' journalist Hasan al-Muhammad al-'Ali entitled: "When Truth Unveiled"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Jordanian journalist not recognised by the Jordan Journalists' Association (JJA), has reported about the gifts received secretly from the Iraqi regime by many officials, merchants and even journalists ever since the Iran-Iraq war broke out, and even until the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait.

Salamah Ni'mat, the journalist, did not reveal any names in his report, but caused an uproar in the house of the defenders of the Iraqi regime against Iraqi politicians, intellectuals, poets and writers who oppose the president as well as against the flood of commission and companies run by Jordanians in the forefront with behind-the-scenes support by Saddam's thugs who are everywhere in Jordan.

"I have lived with them for three months," he said; "I have seen the beautiful villas and luxury cars and spacious flats and comfortable offices and I know all those who live in them, ride the cars and sit behind the desks... All those who have received keys for the Jubayha flats from some in the JJA, which is deputising for loser-comrade Saddam Husayn.

Ministers, MPs, officials, chief editors, journalists and columnists have all received gifts from the Iraqi Embassy in appreciation of their courage and their heroic role in the 'al-Qadisiyah' of Saddam and the 'mother of all battles'.

I would like to mention a meeting attended by the editor-in-chief of AL-RA'Y Mahmud al-Sharif, in the office of our colleague 'Abdallah al-Qaq, who also worked at AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM.

During this meeting, I expressed my hope that al-Sharif would publish an article from among those that I was sending him daily in order to counter the lies of various columnists. The answer al-Sharif gave me is one that I can remember very vividly: "If I publish an article from among those you have sent me, the newspaper will go under."

So, I asked al-Sharif, is it that how much you hate an article written by a Kuwaiti Arab who lives among you and wants to counter lies and express his opinion under the principles of freedom and democracy which you brag about?

He did not like what I said, so he left the office and instructed his staff that I be asked out of the office so that he is not accused of double standards between Iraq—which gives gift sand money—and Kuwait—the victim— which was hoping for a column through which Kuwaiti citizens could express their own opinions or even those of Jordanians who once resided in Kuwait and who wished to defend the land that had cradled them from most of their lives.

Now, we return to Salamah Ni'mat, who exploded the bomb of the Iraqi infiltration in the Jordanian government and its unlimited gifts for those who promised to defend its wrongs in order to fatten their bank accounts with the very American dollars that they curse day and night.

Speaking about the Iraqi infiltration in Jordan during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, Salamah said Jordanians discovered the pictures of Saddam Husayn hanging in government offices and trade centres in greater numbers than those of King Husayn.

When this discovery was made, some warned against the Saddam phenomenon. Yet their words were blown with the wind when Jordanian writers and intellectuals deceived their fellow-Jordanians by saying that hanging Saddam's pictures, even in out-houses, is an appreciation of Saddam's nationalism.

That the Iraqi leader was working to destroy the existing boundaries and bonds of friendship among the Arab countries seemed inconsequential. The Jordanian house began to crack as these scandals leaked out, after the first peck by Salamah Ni'mat.

Qatar

UAE Call To End 'Siege' on Iraq Hailed

JN1910074395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State of Qatar today welcomed United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan's call to lift the siege imposed on Iraq and to reconcile with it.

A statement by the Qatari Council of Ministers carried on the QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the Qatari Government welcomes Shaykh Zayid's call on the need to carry out an intra-Arab reconciliation that would end the tribulation of the fraternal Iraqi people in fulfillment of a sincere Arab wish.

Diplomats accredited in the Gulf said that the UAE president's call to end the international siege on Iraq, which Qatar welcomed today, Wednesday, has disturbed Kuwait.

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A Western diplomat in Abu Dhabi said that the foreign embassies in the region were surprised by Shaykh Zayid's call. The diplomat said: We were amazed, particularly since the United Nations has accused Iraq of continuing to conceal information on its weapons programs.

Shaykh Zayid had said that, as Arabs, it is unacceptable for us to remain silent on the perpetuation of the siege on Iraq, whether the West likes it or not.

In a Kuwaiti reaction to Shaykh Zayid's call, Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, today phoned [Saudi] King Fahd.

The Kuwaiti press voiced anxiety over Shaykh Zayid's call, which it said it had not expected.

Saudi Arabia

Arabs' Demand for End to Iraqi Embargo Criticized

JN1610193795 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 Oct 95 p 5

[Editorial: "The Weepers, and Saddam's Smart Tricks]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some representatives of Arab countries talk about the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the international embargo on Iraq, and demand an end to the embargo without referring to reality.

To talk about anything without explaining its reality is mere talk and rhetoric. In fact, the sole offender against the Iraqi people is their regime, which chose to procrastinate, commit successive blunders, and play games with the peoples and leaders of the world over the past five years, all the while being aware that all was being done at the expense of the Iraqi people. Eventually, procrastination and blunders do not add up to success, and the regime has failed to learn its lesson.

Among the blunders of the regime was that in spite of strict international monitoring of all its military and industrial activities, it proliferated new missiles and weapons, and hid information about its nuclear armament program while being aware that the UN Special Commission knew it was hiding secrets. The regime knows that this will prolong the sanctions and that it will eventually be exposed, but it continues its blunders and tricks without any sense of responsibility toward its people's problems and national economy. Although it has recently revealed new secrets, the inspectors are not convinced of the honesty of the Iraqi regime.

Then why do those who shed tears over the Iraqi people's conditions and who speak on their behalf sidestep the facts and demand that the United Nations lift the sanctions? Lifting the sanctions is within the powers of one man — namely, Saddam Husayn — and not within the powers of any UN or world official. If they are really sincere to the Iraqi people and if they are friends of the Iraqi regime, then their logical duty dictates them to advise their friend to stop his exposed, superficial games, and to make him understand that the only victim of his political talents is the Iraqi people and not anyone else.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was clear in his UN General Assembly speech on 11 October when he explained the Kingdom's position on the situation in Iraq, and stressed that the Iraqi people's suffering is a source of concern for the Saudi government and people. But this does not alter the fact that the Iraqi regime is the primary party responsible for all that is happening to the Iraqi people, especially since it was given the chance to sell a quantity of its oil to get revenues to provide for the basic needs of Iraqis. However, the regime rejected the offer, because it deprived it of the opportunity to deploy huge revenues toward aggression and threats to its neighbors. By its repeated attempts to hide its armament programs from the representatives of international committees, it is masking aggressive intentions that may exceed in their recklessness and results the aggression against Kuwait in 1990.

It is strange that the Arabs who claim that their support for Saddam's regime is based on pan-Arab grounds, forget—in a suspicious, deceptive manner—that this regime was the party which dealt the decisive blow to Arab unity, divided the Arabs and their ranks, and easily succeeded in sowing hatred among the Arab peoples—which was something that Israel failed to do over more than 50 years of its aggressions and efforts toward that end.

Envoy to UK Defends Execution of Drug Smugglers

JN1810214095 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 15 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques in London, has stated that court sentences in the Kingdom are based on Islamic law in which one billion Muslims believe, and that the death sentences carried out are due to the increase in the number of smugglers of drugs which are the lethal enemy of the younger generation on whom the state pins high hopes.

Al-Qusaybi said: We will not permit our country to become a safehaven for killers and for those who transform our children into drug addicts.

Al-Qusaybi was commenting on the falsehoods the British THE INDEPENDENT had published defaming

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the [Saudi] legal system and the application of the Islamic law provisions.

Al-Qusaybi said it was the Western countries which had waged two destructive world wars which killed more than 50 million people, not to mention the wounded and the disabled. It was also the West which has nurtured Communism and Nazism and which invented and used the nuclear bomb. This West also says it feels ashamed every time a murderer or drug trafficker is executed.

Dr. al-Qusaybi recalled the story of British citizen Barry Grundy which the British papers had published a few days ago. Grundy, an aeronautics engineer working in Saudi Arabia, was recently attacked in one of London's big stores. Following the incident which left its mark on him, Grundy said that security in Britain is lacking, even in broad daylight, and that he feels more secure in Saudi Arabia.

CDLR Monitor Publishes Bulletin No. 64

MS1110095295 London CDLR Monitor in English 8 Oct 95

[Bulletin No. 64 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); date not given — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The Developments in al-Hudayf's Case

The incident of al-Hudayf's murder is still a hot subject in the Kingdom, particularly amongst students of religion and the ruling family.

We have been informed that the number of people who have visited al-Hudayf's house to offer their condolences has been no less than 10,000. Amongst these visitors have been a large number of scholars and dignitaries, such as Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Qa'ud, Shaykh Ibn- Jibrin, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Barrak, Shaykh Hamud al-'Uqlah and many other prominent scholars. Many of the visitors visited the grave of the deceased and prayed. All the visitors praised the family of al-Hudayf on their bravery and high morale.

The judges who signed the death sentence, on the other hand, have been undergoing great pressure from the public. Judge Hamad al-Mukbil faced a severe attack and accusations of injustice regarding his embroilment in the murder of an innocent Muslim. Al-Mukbil tried to justify his actions with an excuse that was almost as heinous as the crime itself. He stated that the intelligence department is the backbone of the country, and attacking one of its personnel was the greatest cause of turmoil and unrest. At the same time, al-Mukbil defended Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman, and said that when Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman shot his victim, he was actually defending himself.

The whole of al-Bukayriyah city was united in disgust and resentment towards al-Luhaydan. This anger against him came from even his own family members. The people considered his action to have brought dishonour to the al-Luhaydan family.

The amazing fact is that Shaykh al-Luhaydan is still swearing by God Almighty that the action was not his responsibility, even though he is the one who pressurised the judges to pass the death sentence. His statement also contradicts his words in the long interviews reported in two Arabic London newspapers, 'AL-MUSLIMUN' and 'AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT', in which he strongly defended the judiciary of Al-Sa'ud and described it as dignified and as ruling by Shari'ah. So how can he now claim that he doesn't know, when he is the head of the High judiciary council?

We have learned from sources inside the ruling family that despite the worry of a number of members of the ruling family about the consequences of the murder, it would seem that Nayif's style is still the most dominant, and the possibility of issuing similar sentences in the near future is very likely. The same sources mentioned that the policy of arrests and torture will remain until Nayif is satisfied that the infrastructure of the Islamic activity in the country is destroyed.

The regime attempted to save their reputation in a most pathetic manner. The intelligence personnel distributed copies of forged letters in Qasim. The letters contained congratulations from known scholars to the Interior Ministry for taking the right decision by executing al-Hudayf, and also expressing their pleasure at such a courageous step. The forged letters were distributed in the form of telegrams claiming to have been sent from Shaykh Hamud al-'Uqla, Shaykh Muhammad al-Mansur and others. The shaykhs have condemned the forgeries in the strongest terms and considered such forgeries in their names as a particularly abhorrent crime.

The stand of the shaykhs regarding the murder is well known to the public, and was declared very clearly. Most of the shaykhs have also visited al-Hudayf's family.

News — The Donations for Bosnia

An important person, knowledgeable in the royal family's affairs, mentioned that all the family members who claimed on television that they had donated million or hundreds of thousands of riyals are liars, particularly the one who claimed a donation of 50 million riyals as the Committee for the donations has still received nothing

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from any of them. The generous claims on the phone were pure propaganda. The same source mentioned that the donations campaign took place on American instructions after the Americans decided to take the initiative in the Bosnia case.

Financial Difficulties Deepen

The financial difficulties have worsened even further, and the signs are beginning to show even in the departments of the special security forces, who feel very bitter at present because they have not yet received their pilgrimage allowance. Many people working in the various departments of the security services talk about the huge reductions in expenditure on personnel and services.

Al-Shibrin Returns to Torture

After medication and a recuperative vacation, Major Saud al- Shibrin has returned to his favourite hobby which is the torturing of scholars and University professors. The Committee has learned that the major, as a favour from Prince Nayif allowing him to take his revenge, personally participated in the torturing of 'Abdallah al-Hudayf. It has been confirmed to the Committee that he is still torturing the reform prisoners.

Royal Issues

In an attempt to improve King Fahd's image in the Arab and Islamic world, a new book has been published entitled "Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz — The King, The Human".

The new media minister, in an attempt to prove himself in the ministry, has been marketing this book in Arab countries. It would seem that he has been successful in Egypt, as one of the Egyptian magazines published the news that the Egyptian authorities have already begun to confiscate all the books that criticise Al Sa'ud and have agreed to publish this book instead for...[as published]

More Sackings

More names have been added to the list of sacked lecturers and professors. The new names are Dr. Sa'id Bin-Zu'ayr, Dr. Bishr al-Bishr, Dr. Nasir al-'Umar, Shaykh Salim al-Qarni, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Ashmani, Dr. Nasir al-Rashid, Dr. Khalid al-Humaydyi, Dr. Salih al-Wuhaybi, Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nafi', Dr. Khalid al-Dawish, Dr. Muhsin al-A'waj, Dr. Muhammad al-Hudayf.

In addition to the above sackings, the Interior Ministry forced transfers to administrative positions on Dr. 'Awad Al-Qurni, Dr. Sa'ud al-Finaysan, Dr. Nasir al-'Aql, Dr. Muhammad al-Qahtani, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shahwan, Dr. 'Abdallah al-Turayqi, Dr. Nasir al-Qifari and lecturer 'Abdallah al-Rayiss.

The above decisions correspond to the advice of the al-Jam'iyah group, as well as the advice of the consultants employed from other Arab countries, who strongly believe in limiting the use of human resources to spread influence.

A New Tax on Electricity

A new tax has been added to the electricity bill but was not given any name.

However, it can be found on the bill as extra tax. It would seem that the increase on services, fuel and the rise in the cost of food products after the removal of Government subsidies, has led to hardship for citizens.

Many expatriates send their families home to reduce living expenses, which has prompted the Saudis to invent a new joke, that the Government should provide places for the families of Saudi citizens outside the Kingdom as well, to enable them to reduce their living costs!

At the same time the "rumour" squad in the security service is spreading rumours that our fuel and services costs are still cheaper than Europe and America. It would seem that the ones spreading the rumours fail to realise that those countries being compared with the Kingdom, provide financial help for the unemployed, housing or housing benefit, whether they are citizens or refugees and provide allowances for children and disabled people etc. It would be more appropriate for our rulers to stop such comparisons with Europe because figures will prove that al-Sa'ud are the worst rulers taking into account the embezzlement of the wealth of their people.

Unemployment on the Increase

The unemployment figures have reached unbelievable heights, despite the ban on publishing any figures on this subject. The percentage of unemployment amongst graduates is no less than 30 percent and is still rising. It can be said that the hope of being employed in the first two years after graduation has become almost nil.

The unemployment problem has already reached post-graduates.

In addition to the increasing unemployment, the Kingdom of al-Sa'ud has no social security system and there is absolutely nothing to help or train people to find jobs that are available. All the plans are based and dependent on foreign manpower.

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Arrests

On Saturday 7/4/1416, Shaykh Muhammad Assa'wi was arrested in Riyadh, and in Hafr al-Batin region, Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ghazi was arrested.

Self-Sufficiency

The Government administration departments recently received written and oral instructions to be financially self-sufficient for the provision of cleaning and other services in their offices and buildings. After the success of this experiment in departments such as education and health, it has now been implemented in the security and intelligence departments, which were instructed to provide their office requirements from their own pockets.

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Baghdad Admits Trying To Produce Atomic Bomb

NC1810092595 Paris AFP in English
0903 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 18 (AFP) — Iraq said Tuesday [17 October] it had tried to produce a small atomic bomb after it invaded Kuwait but added the program had failed after it started.

Oil Minister General 'Amir Rashid, who also heads the military industrialization organization, also denied Iraq still possessed weapons banned by the United Nations.

Answering allegations that Iraq was about to a become nuclear power, he said: "It's not exact to say that Iraq was on the point of making a small atomic bomb. The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] knows very well that this program was a failure from the moment it began after August 2 1990," the day Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The IAEA said in August that Iraq launched after the invasion of Kuwait a program to build a nuclear bomb in six months but allied bombing of its plants during the 1991 Gulf war had cut short the program.

Sources Cited on Saddam's Bid 'To Reinvent Himself'

BR1810144295 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish
18 Oct 95 p 9

[Report by J.C. Gumucio: "Saddam Husayn 'Reinvents' His Regime To Survive Embargo Against Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has decided to revitalize the Ba'th Party to protect himself and to consolidate himself in power indefinitely, convinced that the lifting of the international embargo will take a long time and aware that he can no longer rely exclusively on his family.

Senior Iraqi sources state that, after winning Sunday's [15 October] referendum, Saddam feels strong enough to adopt a number of radical measures which would restore the Ba'th Party's former power. This entails gradually eliminating the influence of the hermetic clique of relatives and members of the Tikrit clan, whose abuse of power — and especially the betrayal made clear by the desertion to Jordan of General Husayn Kamil, his two daughters, and a number of his close circle last August — placed the regime on the brink of catastrophe.

What emerges from a number of conversations held by EL PAIS with senior officials and presidential advisers, as well as from confidential statements by intellectuals critical of the regime within Iraq, is that Saddam is seeking — and is clearly succeeding in this — to reinvent himself. Even his opponents admit that this is not only perfectly possible, but is also a tactic which will pay him enormous political dividends.

"After dispensing with the party to favor his relatives' insatiable appetite, in the belief that the only security is that given to him by his closest circle, Saddam has had to acknowledge that the desertion of his son-in-law, General Husayn Kamil, was a traumatic but salutary warning," one source said.

"Saddam is astute. He knows that to survive he will now have to win back the party's loyalty," said an official with access to the discussions currently taking place until dawn in the presidential palace.

The signs that Saddam is making a turnabout are not subtle. A veteran Ba'th Party official contacted by this newspaper confirmed accounts that, for instance, there are even orders as cosmetic as the resurrection of old slogans, such as that which in the best totalitarian style proclaims: "The people are made of flowers, and their scent is the party."

Son-in-Law's [as published] Whims

Another official source who asked not to be identified said that the president has already given instructions to denounce all the abuses of his large family, including the frequently bloody whims of his eldest son, the erratic and irascible 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. 'Udayy has no choice but to maintain a discreet position; a situation which is being strongly encouraged by his own father, reliable sources say.

"The president has realized that 'Udayy was getting out of his control and that this had become a factor of growing unease," said another source, who gave as an instance a well documented fact: Although 'Udayy holds the title of chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee, his office's approval was essential until a few days ago even for the appointment of judges and governors, and the granting of trading licenses.

But, according to informed sources, it is not the extensive and pernicious network of influence which has been uncovered which could possibly bring about 'Udayy's disappearance from the narrow firmament of power in Iraq, but the relations and deals linking him with General Kamil, who has fled to Jordan, according to the evidence which has come to light as a result of the official investigation opened into the defector.

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Saddam Calls On Ba'thist Branch Command

JN1810143595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1335 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has shared with the Iraqi people's masses their celebrations marking his victory in the general popular referendum held on the post of president. Today, he visited the premises of the al-Ma'mun branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He was received by large crowds who showed great jubilation and shouted loudly "Yes, Yes to leader Saddam Husayn."

His excellency the president expressed his gratitude and thanks to the Iraqi people who demonstrated a large measure of steadfastness and defiance in the face of Iraq's enemies and their evil schemes.

The large crowds renewed their absolute allegiance and heartfelt sentiments to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, leader of Iraq, builder of its glory, and guide of its march to the peaks of pride and victory.

Upon arrival at the al-Ma'mun branch command, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn was received by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of Baghdad and al-Karkh organizations.

Ba'th Official on Significance of Saddam Win

JN1810161495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1430 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] and secretary of the ABSP's Central Workers Bureau, today met with a Tunisian workers delegation headed by 'Abd-al-Majid al-Sahrawi [name as transliterated], deputy chairman of the Committee for Solidarity With Iraq and Repulsing Aggression, who is currently visiting Iraq on the occasion of the referendum held on 15 October.

'Ali Hasan al-Majid reiterated that the Iraqi people practiced democracy at its best with their election of their victorious leader Saddam Husayn as president for life [qa'idan abadiyan]. He indicated that the masses said yes to Saddam Husayn, because he stands for Iraq's honor and pride.

Al-Majid noted that the victory of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is a victory for the whole people. It is the best response to all frenzied trumpets that have attempted to undermine Iraq and its national sovereignty, he added.

For his part, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Sahrawi expressed his admiration and appreciation of the democratic methods practiced by the Iraqi people in complete freedom, which resulted in the landslide victory of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn—something which underlines the generous Iraqi people's total allegiance to their victorious leader as well as their adherence to their strong convictions.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Jordan's Shubaylat, Others

JN1810155595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1440 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Layth Shubaylat, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, who is currently visiting Baghdad on the occasion of the general popular referendum.

Tariq 'Aziz also received a delegation of Iraqi expatriates living in the United States headed by Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim. The delegation includes Shakir al-Khafaji, chairman of the first Iraqi expatriates conference, as member.

During the two meetings, the talks addressed the general popular referendum and what it stands for in terms of adherence to the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and opposition to the positions of the imperialist powers, which are behind the prolongation of the unfair sanctions clamped on the people of Iraq.

Ramadan Receives Jordanian, Tunisian Party Officials

JN1810210095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1655 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received a delegation of the Jordanian Pan-Arab Action Front Party headed by Secretary General Muhammad al-Zu'bi.

Ramadan asserted during the meeting that the result of the public referendum, which President Saddam Husayn won, has delighted the Iraqi people and their good Arab brothers but angered the agents and their dwarves. He said the referendum was a slap in the face of the United States and its allies, which were saddened by the civilized way in which the Iraqi people renewed their principled support for their symbol leader, Saddam Husayn.

The secretary general of the Jordanian Pan-Arab Action Front Party expressed heartfelt congratulations on behalf of himself and the Arab nation on the election of President Saddam Husayn to the post of president of the Republic of Iraq. He stressed that the Iraqi word

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yes means yes to the liberal, independent revolutionary policy led by Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference. [passage omitted]

Taha Yasin Ramadan also received 'Abd-al-Majid al-Sahrawi, assistant secretary general of the Tunsian workers' union and chairman of the committee for supporting Iraq [title as received], and the delegation accompanying him.

The vice president expressed the appreciation of President Saddam Husayn and that of the Iraqi leadership and people for the support of the Arab nation, including the Tunisian people who are working actively in Arab and international arenas to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq's people—an activity which has angered the United States and its allies and disturbed its satellite dwarves and traitors. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Political Parties, Groups Pledge Support

JN1810202595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1725 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—A Jordanian delegation of political parties, trade unions, and popular and social organizations that came to Iraq to observe the general popular referendum held on 15 October has asserted its absolute solidarity with Iraq and its people in the face of all attempts at distortion and doubt-casting targeting steadfast Iraq.

In a statement issued in Baghdad today, the delegation added that Jordanian parties, forces, and figures have worked and will continue to work by all means to break the embargo in order to enable lofty Iraq to utilize its resources and riches toward attaining power and strength in the interest of the Arab nation.

The statement expressed enormous jubilation over the peerless turnover of Iraqis during the general popular referendum, which was conducted in complete freedom and honesty—a matter that amazed the observers and invitees who flocked to Iraq from all around the world.

The statement was signed by the al-Mustaqbal [Future] Party; the Jordanian People's Democratic Party-Hashd/the Muhammad Nayif wing; the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party; the Pan-Arab Action Front Party; the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the Popular Unity Party the Unionists; the Democratic Arab Unionist Party-Wa'd; the Jordanian National Alliance Party; the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party; the president of the Jordanian Engineers Association [Layth Shubylat]; and several members of the House of Representatives, local councils, and popular committees in support of Iraq. It was also signed by several Jordanian figures and tribal chieftains who observed the Iraqi referendum.

Algeria's Zeroual Cables Congratulations to Saddam

JN1810171895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1419 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual of Algeria on his election victory.

The cable reads as follows: In the aftermath of your election as president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq, it pleases me to offer your excellency my heartfelt congratulations and wishes of continued good health and happiness. Likewise, I would like to renew Algeria's solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people and its wishes of further progress and prosperity for them.

Saddam Receives Yemeni Party Official

JN1510155395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1530 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received 'Abdallah al-Badr, assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress in sisterly Yemen. 'Abdallah al-Badr conveyed to his excellency a message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the sisterly Republic of Yemen, on bilateral relations and the Arab situation.

'Abdallah al-Badr, who is participating in his capacity as a party official in the general popular referendum, expressed the solidarity of the Yemeni Government and people with Iraq whose people are suffering from the unjust blockade. He also expressed Yemen's solidarity with the Iraqis in their expression of their free, national, and independent choice through the popular referendum.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Yemeni Parliamentarian Lauds 'Show of Democracy'

JN1810191395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1450 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—Deputy National Assembly Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri has met with Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kabsi, member of the Yemeni House of Representatives, and his delegation, who are currently visiting Iraq on the

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occasion of the general popular referendum held on 15 October.

Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri asserted that the Iraqi people have made a pledge of allegiance to their leader to express their loyalty and love for him. He indicated that all the enemies' plots to undermine Iraq's willpower and sovereignty have been defeated and will come to naught.

For his part, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kabsi expressed his admiration of the Iraqi show of democracy, which epitomized the unbreakable cohesion between the people and their leader.

During the meeting, the two reviewed the aspects of cooperation between the Yemeni House of Representatives and the Iraqi National Assembly in the interest of the glorious Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Safa' al-'Umar, chairman of the Assembly's Arab and international Relations Committee.

Saddam Receives Message From Belarus President

JN1510165895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)- President Saddam Husayn received Vladimir Zamaltin Liksshano [name as transliterated,] deputy head of the Presidential Office and head of the political and social information department in Belarus, who is the personal envoy of President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

He conveyed to his excellency a message from President Alyaksandr Lukashenka that was dealt with bilateral relations and the conditions caused by the siege imposed on Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn emphasized Iraq's desire to restore relations of friendship and cooperation with Belarus, which were been good and fruitful when Belarus was part of the former Soviet Union. He said the obstacle facing the restoration of these relations is the unjust siege imposed on Iraq, which requires all the countries harmed by the siege to act using all active political and diplomatic means against the siege and secure justice in international relations.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

SAIRI Spokesman on Results of Referendum 'Farce'

NC1710172995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an exclusive statement to our radio, a spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has criticized the way the fake referendum called by the regime of tyrant Saddam was managed. This is the text of the statement:

[Begin unidentified official recording] Regarding the regime's farce yesterday — the tyrant's winning of a new seven-year term by 99.96 percent of the vote — we say that such percentages have become fashionable in the dictatorial formulas of the Third World. We can say very confidently that the regime has grown so arrogant that it writes the scripts itself and gives them to its mercenaries, like retarded 'Izzat Ibrahim, to direct. Saddam then appears [on television] dancing with his mercenaries, knowing full well the magnitude of the farce.

What does the regime say about the fact that huge numbers of senior Iraqi Army officers joined [words indistinct] in the past few days? Very clearly, seven million Iraqis live abroad and in Kurdistan. All of them, and their children, say no to Saddam. Otherwise, why would they have left Iraq or joined the uprising against the regime [words indistinct].

Seven million Iraqis are saying no to Saddam. With his forgery, lies, and [word indistinct], Saddam says that more than 8 million people participated and voted for him. If we want to (?accept) this percent and [words indistinct], then Saddam will have won 50 percent, as he claims. Does the president of the republic have the right to rule the country for the next seven years if he wins only 50 percent of the vote? We fully realize that no one voted for Saddam other than some mercenaries [words indistinct]. What can Saddam say to those who staged the uprising throughout Iraq? [Passage indistinct] [end recording]

Tariq 'Aziz: Italy Seeking To Open 'Interests Office'

BR1810100895 Milan IL SOLE 24 ORE in Italian 18 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Alberto Negri: "Iraq: Another Dab of Democracy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad — [passage omitted] 'Aziz had messages for everybody: for the United Nations, for the United States, for the Arab world, for foreign companies that want to do business here, and for Italy as well. "When I went to Rome in March to meet

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with the pope and the foreign minister, [Italian Foreign Minister] Ms Agnelli told me that the government has begun negotiations with Hungary to open an "interests office" in Baghdad. We are waiting." It is now a matter of seeing whether Italy will act in the same way as France and Spain, to name only two of our European partners, both of which are conducting fierce business diplomacy in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Columnist on Iran's 'Obsession' With Atomic Bomb

JN1210212495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Sep 95 p 7

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Where Is Iran Heading?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While Iranian cities continue to witness massive demonstrations and riots in protest against the ayatollah regime's policies and oppressive measures, press reports say that Iran is about to make its own atomic bomb and that it has completed the first phase toward achieving its aim.

It is obvious that the Tehran regime, which is obsessed with securing both nuclear and conventional arms, is not sensitive to the suffering of the Iranian peoples, who are overburdened with hunger, fear, oppression, and coercion. It does not want to understand that its obsession with possessing the nuclear weapon does not only mean the exhaustion and ruination of the Iranian economy, but also the exacerbation of the internal situation, which has continued to deteriorate for almost 16 years now.

It is also obvious that the Iranian rulers still dream of expanding and imposing their domination on all Muslims in the world, while they are becoming increasingly weak to resolve any of the economic, social, and political problems facing the Iranian peoples, who have become more indignant and resentful of the ayatollah regime.

If the situation in Iran continues as it is, one cannot rule out the possibility of the Iranian resistance blowing up and toppling the Khomeynite regime before it sets off its atomic bomb. In fact, this is what will happen.

UN Delegate Hamdun Criticizes UN Over Sanctions

JN1810172795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 18 Oct (INA)—Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations, has stated that the criminal genocidal campaign to which the Iraqi people have been subjected for the past five years due to the unfair embargo clamped on them is the outcome of the erroneous policies the United Nations is pursuing against Iraq.

In a speech delivered before the UN General Assembly yesterday, Hamdun addressed the debate on Article 10 of a report submitted by the UN secretary general on the work of the world body, saying that the lack of democracy, the weakened spirit of joint action with regard to the adoption of resolutions and the work of the United Nations and its major agencies, and the domination of the world body by a single power, which is forcing its views on the world body, are to be blamed for this tragedy, which is no longer warranted on legal grounds.

Concluding his speech, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations demanded the correction of these mistakes in a manner that will end the suffering of the Iraqi people, which is caused by the prolonged sanctions regime, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward the relevant UN resolutions.

Responds to Human Rights Report

JN1810214995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 18 Oct (INA)—Iraq has refuted the fabrications of Max van der Stoel, so-called special rapporteur to the UN Human Rights Commission, as well as his disgusting repetition of his allegations and distortions.

Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations, sent a letter to the UN secretary general in reply to a report van der Stoel submitted to the 51st session of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The Iraqi reply pointed out that Iraq would not receive Max van der Stoel, because since being named rapporteur he has been adopting a hostile position that is far from being neutral and objective. Moreover, he is always discriminatory and holds meetings to harm and defame Iraq.

The letter said this man deliberately ignores Iraq's official replies, as well as all scientific studies; completely depends on information known to be hostile to Iraq; behaves out of a preconceived political attitude; and ignores the Iraqi people's deprivation of their human rights in life.

In its letter, Iraq urged the United Nations to study the serious human, legal, and political impact of the economic blockade in light of Article 20 of the Vienna Universal Declaration of Human Rights that bans the use of food and medicine to exercise political pressure.

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Iraq also stressed its categorical rejection of Max van der Stoel's calls for sending human rights observers, and said that these calls indicate this man's biased political mission, represent a flagrant interference in our domestic affairs, and openly conflict with the principles of sovereignty and independence.

In the letter, Iraq accused van der Stoel of carrying out intelligence operations by sending his delegates to Iraq's neighboring states such as Kuwait and Iran and other states such as Britain in order to collect information about Iraq.

The letter scoffed at van der Stoel's report that refers to al-Salman prison, and said that he does not know that the prison no longer exists.

The letter also referred to van der Stoel's deliberate indifference to human rights violations against our Kurdish people in northern Iraq by the invading Turkish forces and the rebel leaderships.

The letter added that as a result of these violations, thousands were either killed, displaced from their villages, or jailed; properties were damaged; and our Kurdish people were deprived of their right to enjoy life.

The Iraqi letter also accused van der Stoel of violating the rules of conduct of UN employees, of directly taking part in conspiracies against Iraq and its national unity, and of interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Article Examines Impact of Sanctions, Bribery

95LH0227A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Jul 95 p 4

[Article by Hayah 'Abd 'Ali: "People's Most Important Issues on Discussion Table at Fifth Legal Conference; New Studies, Research, and Ideas in Society for Confronting Tyrannical Blockade; Lease Contracts; Rights of Minors; Bribery and Embezzlement Crimes; Strengthened Investigative Agencies; How Does Legal Mind View Bribery Crime and How Does It Try To Fight It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the fifth legal conference, numerous issues of concern to people were put on the discussion and examination table in an endeavor to find new outlets to legal solutions that achieve a higher level of fairness, justice, and rightness. The most important of these issues are lease contracts, rights of minors, embezzlement crimes, strengthened investigative agencies, and other issues.

Khalil Ibrahim, the Baghdad Appellate Court vice president, sees that necessity dictates that a balance be created between the two parties to a lease contract. This is why he believes that it is important to establish new rules to regulate the interest of the two parties to a contract.. Ibrahim has explained the exceptions existing in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Article 1 of the current Real Estate Lease Law. This law stipulates that its provisions shall apply to property built within Baghdad Municipality and other municipalities, but it excludes from its provisions a horde of properties, also listed specifically in Paragraph 1 of the same article. The law subjects the leasing of this property to the civil law or to the provisions of laws pertaining to real estate. The rule in this law is that developed real estate, whether for residential or non-residential purposes, is governed by its provisions. The fact is that the supply of real estate developed for non-residential purposes and offered for lease for these purposes is enough to meet the demand of those who want such real estate, contrary to real estate developed for housing, of which supply is not enough to meet the demand.

This is why Ibrahim Khalil believes that the law amending Real Estate Lease Law No. 49 of 1990, which excludes business places from provisions of the real estate lease law, will lead to greater disparity between state-owned property and citizen-owned property. To develop a balance between the two parties to a lease contract and to apply the word of the law, it is required to abolish Revolution Command Council Decree No. 45 of 1990 which suspended the application of this Decree No. 45 until further notice.

In accordance with Article 3 of the same law, a lease contract extends by law for as long as the tenant occupies the property and continues to pay its rent. Thus, the tenant's right, which is a personal right, turns into a right that may last for more than 20 years. Therefore, Ibrahim believes that a time limit of no more than seven years must be set for the automatic extension of a lease contract.

Paragraph A of Article 17 of the same law considers failure to pay rent seven days after it is due and after the tenant is notified by a notary public upon the lapse of the seven-day period that rent must be paid within eight days of the date of notification; paragraph A considers such failure a cause for eviction. A tenant may benefit from this protection twice a year.

Ibrahim also believes that to establish balance between the two parties to a lease contract, the phrase "use in violation of the purpose shown in the contract" must not be a cause for eviction, unless this use is accompanied by offense to the landlord's reputation or unless it inflicts harm on the landlord and his family.

As to Paragraph K of Article 17, which concerns compelling needs dictating eviction, Ibrahim suggests

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that the compelling need be confined to the landlord only.

Because of the declining national currency's purchasing power, rent money is equal to nothing. Therefore, Ibrahim believes that it is necessary to set rent according to the new percentage and in a manner that takes the landlord's and the tenant's interest into consideration.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Hassani, ex-director of the Land Registry Office, has commented on proposals offered by Midhat al-Mahmud and has suggested that a property transfer commitment be registered with a notary public.

'Abdallah al-'Azzawi, the current director of the Land Registry Office, has demanded that Decree No. 1198 be developed to curtail the phenomenon of withdrawing from contracts.

'Abd-al-Baqi Mahmud Sawadi, a counselor at the State Consultative Council, believes that the law respects the will of the parties to a contract. He has discussed this phenomenon which has surfaced as a result of rising real estate prices and has proposed that a preliminary contract be recorded. Sawadi believes that Decree 1198 of 1977 and the solutions it brought in 1977 are appropriate no longer for all current phenomena and problems and that it must be developed and made complete.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar Dallah 'Ali, a magistrate at the Appellate Court, has proposed that committees be formed in government departments to reconsider property rent limits under the umbrella of the current circumstances and in a manner that befits the interest of both parties to a contract.

'Ali believes that Decree 1198 has tackled numerous problems, that it is an exception to the civil law, and that an exception to the law should not be expanded.

Ghazi al-Jinabi, general director of the Minors Office, underlined the need to preserve the rights of minors, noting that a will permitting the sale of property in which minors are partners leads to the minors' displacement and to the loss of their rights. Al-Jinabi demanded that Article 58 of the Iraqi civil law be expanded and that Revolution Command Council Resolution 1198, which is applied to minors' shares, be abolished. He demanded that this decree not be applied to these shares. He further demanded that old rent rates for leased property belonging to minors be changed in order to ensure minors' rights.

Presidents of al-Karkh and al-Bayya' criminal courts, the prosecutor general at the Chief Prosecution Office, and the general director of the Appellate Court submitted research and studies on the blockade's impact on theft and embezzlement crime rates, on the issuance of rubber checks, and on bribery, suggesting the following:

- that each family take charge of protecting its own property;
- that car owners take their own steps to protect them;
- that domestic security agencies increase their civilian detachments in residential areas;
- that owners of shops which buy and sell used articles connected with cars, owners of furniture showrooms, and owners of shops dealing in used electrical equipment be made accountable and subject to prosecution;
- that the media play a more influential role in protection against crime;
- that agencies specialized in safeguarding domestic security be fortified against means to which criminals resort;
- that investigative agencies be strengthened by increasing the number of their workers and by enhancing the workers' capability;
- that the Interior Ministry and the Justice Ministry cooperate in developing plans to curtail crime.

As to the reasons for the rise of the embezzlement phenomenon, a study noted the following:

- failure to select the right person in the area of financial and accounting activities;
- deficient work systems and the lack of intrinsic control;
- negligent keeping of books, records, and warehouse forms which provide documentation of assets and their movement;
- weak fiscal and administrative control, both direct and indirect;
- absence of party's role in government institutions;
- change in society's view of embezzlers and bribe-takers;
- immense psychological pressure on the civil servant because he cannot secure basic living needs.

Because of the rise of the embezzlement crime as a consequence of the blockade, one study has said:

- the penalty for this crime should be stiffened to reach the death sentence under the war circumstances;
- the blockade has had a serious impact on prices of goods and commodities;
- financial control of public money is weak;
- new forms of embezzlement have emerged, such as stealing government vehicle tires by drivers,

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replacement of new tires by old tires, and theft of public library books;
- no official records kept in accordance with legal accounting principles are available;
- the emergence of a new class of public employees who have opened shops and workshops to sell or repair the equipment used by their departments, which brings them very close to committing the crime of embezzlement;
- the absence of small currency denominations from circulation has encouraged embezzlement in a new way;
- scarcity of people eligible for jobs and a growing need for such people;
- a higher crime rate when compared with the pre-blockade period.

The study finds that the following solutions can contribute to curtailing the embezzlement crime:

- the issuance of a law that amends the penalty for the embezzlement crime;
- a permanent system to provide government employees with a subsidy equal to the inflation rate;
- strengthened fiscal control agencies and the establishment of what is called a modern management system;
- use of modern equipment to control the entry and departure of assets to and from stores;
- paying attention to keeping regular records in government agencies;
- watch over the civil servant's financial conditions through special agencies;
- careful selection of civil servants assigned to work with trusts;
- requiring the oath from civil servants;
- denying an embezzler his civil and pension rights, withdrawing his passport, and repealing all his privileges and rights.

As to the blockade's impact on the crime of issuing rubber checks and the appropriate means to confront it, the study has stressed the need to:

- unify the legal provisions governing checks and included in the trade and penal codes;
- not to release defendants in the investigation phase until a guarantor ensuring the value of the rubber check is secured;
- in case a check bears two dates, (one a date of release and the other a date of collection, then the issuer shall not be punishable for issuing it?);
- stress to the courts that it is necessary to decide lawsuits filed by recipients promptly and within the established time limits;
- banks should be required to report this crime and such reporting should be considered a legal obligation;
- stress to banks that it is necessary to put strong emphasis on checks remaining in check books kept by clients after they have issued rubber checks and to close these clients' current accounts;
- it is necessary to develop a plan to insure checks drawn by clients;
- banks should submit to the Central Bank a so-called "precautionary list";
- instruct branch managers or bank employees concerned not to return a check just because a deficit exists in the drawing party's balance;
- have banks launch concerted enlightenment campaigns.

As to the blockade's impact on the bribery crime and to the appropriate means to confront this crime, a study noted that the blockade has produced a number of reasons which have turned bribery from a socially rejected crime to a phenomenon with which society has become compelled to live. These reasons include:

1. the employee's poverty;
2. society's sympathy for the employee;
3. the citizen's profit from the employee's services;
4. the inability of some government agencies to secure the requirements for the employees to perform their duties;
5. the employee's feeling that he is done an injustice.

As for the means to confront this crime, the study sees that:

1. The salary is a right the government owes the civil servant. The government's fulfillment of its obligation does not mean that it should pay the salary at its face value but should add to it any shortfall that may develop as a result of the economic conditions.

2. Control efficiency depends on the selection of controllers from among capable and honest elements.

3. Punishment: Revolution Command Council Decree No 813 of 1986 stiffened the penalty for this crime, making it a life prison term and the confiscation of assets.

4. Vigilance.

Dr. 'Ali Jum'ah Muharib, a counselor at the State Consultative council, has proposed the following to confront theft, bribery, and embezzlement crimes:

- deal with administrative corruption by working to reform the administrative apparatus;

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- reexamine the salaries scale;
- grant incentives and allowances to capable employees;
- strengthen internal control outfits existing in all ministries, as well as external control outfits embodied in the Financial Control Bureau;
- determine financial powers, and don't expand them;
- insure accounting officers with insurance companies;
- attention to the spiritual aspect and strengthen religion's role in fighting crime.

Commenting on this, Magistrate Jamal Mustafa said, "As long as the legislator has embraced the principle of free proof, then why don't we content ourselves with testimony? The French law considers a defendant's confession one-half a proof whereas the Iraqi law considers it a full proof." Mustafa believes that it is better to abolish the principle of a testimony coupled with evidence and proofs. He is content with testimony alone, as do the majority of laws.

The conference also discussed and examined the personal statute. The conferees submitted on the issue appropriate proposals befitting the new problems and phenomena produced by the blockade.

Magistrate 'Abd-al-Qadir Ibrahim demanded equality between lower court judges and judges of personal statute courts, considering that the decision of a personal statute court is appealed automatically whereas it is required to submit a request to appeal the decision of a lower court judge. This decision is not appealed automatically. A personal statute court judge cannot debate an appeals court decision whereas a lower court judge can debate an appeals court decision and contest it, insisting on the decision issued by his court. Judge Ibrahim finds that this is not fair.

'Ali Husayn al-Dulaymi submitted a study entitled: "Adequacy of Eastern Home [al-bayt al-sharqi] Decisions Under Current Circumstances." Al-Dulaymi's proposals included a proposal to abolish Articles 23-28 of Personal Statute No. 188 of 1959 and to replace them by the following:

"233. Both spouses shall shoulder the marriage costs.
"243. Both spouses shall shoulder the cost of their life together after marriage. If one of them is unable to shoulder any costs, the other shall shoulder them.
"253. A husband may lodge his wife with his relatives and with a second wife, provided that she is given a separate room.
"263. A husband may let his parents live with him if they need him. He may also let his children from another wife and blood relatives to whom he cannot be married live with him.
"273. Alimony shall be determined according to the condition of the party required to pay it and it may be increased or reduced on the basis of this condition and of the payer's financial conditions, or when an emergency arises."

"Judiciary training and performance" was another issue to which the fifth legal conference of the Ministry of Justice devoted attention, especially since Iraq is experiencing a shortage of judges in its courts. There are 388 judges in all of the country's governorates. This number is not compatible with the total number of Iraq's population. Moreover, women are still very far from this important corps, even though they have proven their high capabilities in other areas. There is still a standing invitation to retired judges to return to the judiciary service anew. What we have to do is to find the incentive to make them want to return.

Dr. Dari Khalil, director of the Judiciary Institute, presented a study entitled "Judges' Numbers" in which he dealt with the appointment of judges and with how to deal with the crisis of the disinclination to take up a judiciary job. Dari called for dealing with the civil service job problem and for encouraging graduates to take up civil service jobs. He also called for bolstering judiciary immunity so that a judge will continue to hold a distinguished position. He also stressed that it is necessary to preserve the judge's moral and material position. Dari called, moreover, for devising new methods of judiciary training.

Badri al-'Allam submitted a study entitled "Developing the Investigation Agency," in which he dealt with the importance of the investigation agency and with the need to exert efforts to develop and strengthen it. In 1992, the Justice Ministry implemented a plan to replace police officers by judiciary investigators. Some negatives emerged as a result and a committee was formed from the Justice and Interior Ministries to examine them. Magistrate Ja'far Nasir presented a study entitled "Means To Speed Up the Decision in Civil Lawsuits" in which he stressed that efforts to speed up things must not be made at the expense of right. He also said that things must not be rushed until all investigations connected with lawsuits are completed. Discussions, comments, interpretations, and opinions interacted in the conference hall. We await the recommendations that will emanate from all this and that will be submitted to the Iraqi legislator so he will issue the appropriate decrees and amendments and will abolish whatever is appropriate no longer.

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Plans for IDF Lebanon Withdrawal Said Discussed

TA1810194195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Video report by Qobi Marenko and 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin admits that Israel constantly reevaluates the indispensability of the security zone in south Lebanon. Proof of this — and more — is to be found in two internal documents procured by our correspondent Qobi Marenko. The basic premise is that withdrawal even without a peace arrangement with Syria is a better option than retaining the security zone. Here is the report of our correspondents Qobi Marenko and 'Imanu'el Rosen:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin implied today that the Israeli concept on south Lebanon can change.

[Rabin] We reevaluate the situation constantly, each time things change. When the security zone was established, the Palestinians were the main problem. Today that problem hardly exists.

[Rosen] Two documents — one from a state institution and another from the Defense Ministry — present an option for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Lebanon. Israel will agree to do so provided one of the following forces deploys in the area: a competent Lebanese policing force; an American-international force; or a Syrian policing force. The document states that as a total, such a plan would definitely be positive, because the advantages of an overt or a clandestine Israeli initiative on the matter of Lebanon definitely outweigh the disadvantages, including the possibility that the initiative will be rejected by Syria.

[Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon] To the best of my judgment, experience, and gut feeling, such a plan stands no chance today.

[Yosi Beilin, minister of economy and planning] It does not mean, however, that we cannot check in due time whether all the parameters that were valid in January 1985, when the rather historic decision to leave Lebanon and to form our own security zone was made, are still relevant in 1995.

[Rosen] The prime minister is also aware of the security zone's problematic nature. He said yesterday that the IDF sustains most of its casualties in the area of the Sujud and al-Reyhan outposts, 16 and 17 km from the border, in the northernmost area of the security zone. In other words, some of the security zone lines possibly need to be altered.

[Lubrani] Despite all our difficulties and topographical hardships, we must not touch the security zone.

[Beilin] It can be made smaller or larger, we can be flexible, but we are not obliged to adhere to past decisions, only because they were made.

[Rosen] And 10 years after the decision was made, the prime minister does have some doubts. [end recording]

IDF To Foil 'Any Attempt' To Disrupt Redeployment

TA1810053595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior officer at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command said that the IDF would seriously bolster its forces in order to foil any attempt by radical elements, whether Jewish or Arab, to disrupt the army's redeployment or the entry of the Palestinian police.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that at a meeting of Civil Administration officers, representatives of the security services said that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is not doing enough to fight terrorism. The security officials asserted that Yasir 'Arafat would shift the focus of the PA's activity to Ramallah and Bethlehem, causing Jericho to lose some of its importance.

The security sources expressed the assessment that the reconciliation attempts between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PA would result in gentlemen's agreements in various places at the local level. Hamas is expected to participate in the elections to the autonomy council.

Commander Said To Doubt Viability of Oslo B

TA1910061895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, Major General Ilan Biran, met last night with residents of Efrat and gave them a detailed explanation of the agreement signed with the Palestinians in Washington last month.

Several Efrat leaders quoted Biran as saying the agreement is complex and several clauses may even be impossible to implement, but he promised them that the army would do all it can to ensure security for Israelis who live close to Palestinian population centers in the West Bank.

Border Police Order al-Rujub Out of Ramallah

TA1910102595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, was picked up

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by a Border Police force in Ramallah a short while ago. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the policemen took his identity card and ordered him to leave the area. Palestinian sources said that al-Rujub came to participate in a convention for Palestinian prisoners in Ramallah.

Major General Ilan Biran, the Central Command chief, had ordered his troops not to permit al-Rujub to leave Jericho, and it is unclear how he was able to exit the city.

Committee Extends Shin Bet Interrogation Permit

TA1910113895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministerial Committee on Shin Bet Affairs has decided to extend the special permit allowing the Shin Bet to apply unusual interrogation methods by an additional three months. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. There were no disagreements among the ministerial committee members in the wake of a previous agreement that requires a special permit for interrogation by shaking and isolated the technique from other, routine methods of interrogation.

Our correspondent adds that the Knesset, which is due to resume its plenum debates next week, is expected to complete the Shin Bet Law with expediency and that the law will also settle the interrogation issue.

MK al-Sani', Yasin Discusses Hamas-PA Agreement

TA1810115295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], who is jailed in Hasharon Prison, supports an agreement between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas which will lead to a halt to Hamas military activities. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that Ahmad Yasin was speaking to [Arab Democratic Party] Knesset Member [MK] Talib al-Sani', who visited him in Hasharon Prison this afternoon.

Major General Moshe Ya'alon, head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, said that there is a kind of interim agreement between Hamas and the PA, according to which Hamas will stop carrying out terrorist attacks against Israel from the Palestinian autonomous areas. This agreement, however, does not include East Jerusalem.

Our Knesset affairs correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Maj. Gen. Ya'alon was speaking yesterday to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Israeli defense sources said that Hamas and the PA have so far agreed that while both parties are negotiating there will be a temporary suspension of terrorist attacks against Israeli targets. The sources told our correspondent that it remains unclear whether or not the military wing of Hamas is a partner to the contacts on stopping terrorist attacks. The sources asserted that any agreement must include the military wing. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the defense sources also noted that the Hamas leadership in Sudan is opposed to halting attacks against Israeli targets.

Beilin Denies Discussing Permanent Arrangement

TA1910092395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by Razi Barqay and Udi Segal; place not given; from the daily "What Is the Rush?" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Barqay] Have you seen HATZOFE this morning?

[Beilin] I am afraid I do not subscribe to it.

[Barqay] But you receive it at the office. It speaks of secret academic contacts on a proposal for a permanent arrangement, the exchange of Israeli and Palestinian populations, and the division of Greater Jerusalem. The report says the Israeli team is headed by Dr. Yosi Beilin, the economy and planning minister. Right or wrong?

[Beilin] Wrong. Wrong, but very curious. Now I will have to buy HATZOFE, which I believe can be found at newspaper stands. The arrangement it mentions is a flight of the imagination. I know of no fact that is close to it, but it will definitely make for interesting reading. By the way, THE JERUSALEM POST's Steve Rodan reported a similar permanent arrangement two years ago; it was purely a figment of his imagination. He, too, felt I was about to conclude a permanent arrangement. It is untrue....

[Barqay, interrupting] There is an Israeli document of which you, Yosi Beilin, are aware, which details the following proposal: a Palestinian dock at Ashdod port and an autonomous Palestinian area at Ben-Gurion Airport. Are you familiar with this paper?

[Beilin] Razi, it is pure poppycock. [laughs] What can I tell you?

[Barqay] Jerusalem will be enlarged to become Greater Jerusalem, after which it will be equally divided between the parties.

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[Beilin] Listen, I really must read this paper, because it is so imaginative. It may contain good ideas, but these ideas truly have nothing to do with me.

[Barqay] Israeli blocs will remain in Israel's hands in exchange for Israeli Arab villages that will come under Palestinian sovereignty. Does all this sound like absolute poppycock to you?

[Beilin] Absolute poppycock, although, Razi, perhaps such a thing does exist, but HATZOFE, a venerable and seasoned newspaper, simply has the wrong name. Perhaps the whole arrangement is correct, except that it has to do with someone else.

[Barqay] Let us think back a few years, Yosi Beilin: Had HATZOFE published a headline reading "Israel Holds Negotiations With the PLO in Oslo" and mentioning you in the report, and were I to interview you subsequently, you would have reacted precisely as you did today.

[Beilin] No.

[Barqay] You would have denied it categorically.

[Beilin] But it would not have been exactly the same reaction. I was interviewed at that time, and I never lied. Therefore, I insist that I was very careful, as you will find if you check interviews with me during the Oslo period, which was rife with rumors and so on. I did not give it away, of course, but neither did I lie. In this instance, I am telling you: It is purely the product of HATZOFE's very curious imagination, period.

[Segal] HATZOFE refers to Dr. Yosi Alpher's plan as the basis of these alleged academic talks. Have academic talks been held? The Oslo talks were not described as negotiations on behalf of the prime minister, the foreign minister, or any Israeli minister either, but these people are working with you now and worked with you in Oslo, where they conducted a kind of academic-political experiment, which turned into fact.

[Beilin] I am convinced that academic contacts or experiments of the kind conducted by Yosi Alpher are taking place, and I think they are vital and significant. We will begin the permanent arrangement negotiations with the Palestinians on 4 May 1996, whether we like it or not. We will be in a sorry state if we come to these negotiations without formulated ideas. This, however, does not mean that any particular published plan is correct. The phrases Razi read to me earlier are totally unfounded.

[Barqay] Do you confirm, Yosi Beilin, that Israel and the PLO are holding academic contacts on the permanent arrangement issue?

[Beilin] I do not confirm, but I am convinced that things of that nature exist, and if they do not, they should.

[Barqay] Do you know of such contacts conducted by people such as Ron Pundaq, Ya'ir Hirshfeld, and perhaps others, who were in Oslo with you?

[Beilin] No. There is a big difference between negotiations and academic exchanges between universities or academics in Israel and abroad. I know of no such negotiations, but contacts of that nature are certainly taking place.

[Barqay] The other issue on which I would like you to comment are the hints in today's press, which were probably planted by Labor Party people, to the effect that Rabin is considering holding elections in May or June 1996. Have you heard about this?

[Beilin] I have not heard that the prime minister has been considering such a thing. I am almost convinced that he is considering no such thing, and I think that holding early elections would be a mistake. There is no reason in the world to bring the elections forward. If we lose our Knesset majority, God forbid, we will be forced to do it, but I hope that will not happen and see no reason why it should.

[Barqay] The reason is the concern that the government will be unable to pass the state budget by the end of the year, because there will be defections and demands by various primaries-conscious people. As a result, the party will have no choice but to move the elections up to the coming spring.

[Beilin] There is a difference between a political analysis or interpretation and a political goal. If someone in the Labor Party has set the goal of advancing the elections, it would be an obvious mistake. If, however, someone says that it will be a problem to reach the end of the term and that we will be forced to hold early elections, that would be a legitimate interpretation, which can be offset by one to the contrary.

[Barqay] Thank you very much, Dr. Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Thank you.

Rabin Comments on Permanent Arrangement Issues

TA1810170195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister thinks that the permanent arrangement borders should include, besides united Jerusalem, the townships of Ma'ale Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev, and Gush 'Etzyon — to include Efrat and Betar — as well as other settlements situated east of the Green Line.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Yitzhaq Rabin made these remarks in a meeting with members

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of the Memad movement, with whom he met in his office today.

He further said that he had a certain concept of the permanent arrangement in mind when he formulated the format of the interim arrangements. In his opinion, blocs of Jewish settlements will be established in Judaea and Samaria under the permanent arrangement.

Our correspondent notes that the prime minister frequently meets with Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital, the Memad leader. He promised to meet again with the movement leaders before the permanent agreement negotiations are launched.

High Court: Only President Can Pardon Prisoners

TA1810181595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The High Court of Justice today rejected all the appeals in the matter of the Oslo B agreement: two dealing with the release of Palestinian prisoners and one by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, demanding the release of four female prisoners with blood on their hands. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports:

[Amsalem] The court's day ended with the petition of Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, an adviser to Yasir 'Arafat on a usual day and a public appellant today. Al-Tibi maintained, through attorneys 'Amos Giv'on and Usamah Sa'di, that Israel must release the four female Palestinian prisoners who have blood on their hands by virtue of the political agreement it has signed. Al-Tibi contended that there is no need for the president's pardon. He further asked that the court recommend political amnesty legislation.

Yet the court — President Aharon Baraq and Justices Yitzhaq Zamir and Dalya Dorner — rejected the appeal and the request. The president of the state is the only one with authority to grant pardons, even when motivated by a political accord, the judges ruled. We are satisfied that when making his decision, he considered the accord and Israel's commitments. The judges added: We cannot counsel the Knesset to enact a political amnesty law because of the political aspect.

Dr. al-Tibi said in reaction to the court's decision:

[Begin al-Tibi recording] I appealed as a citizen, and I feel good about it, because I achieved part of what I sought to achieve. Twelve female prisoners evidently will be released soon, after we provide the required material and their full personal data to the state attorney. As for the nonadherence to the accord by the Central Command chief, who refused to grant pardons, the state attorney said the issue is being reviewed by the Liaison Committee. I would like to express my satisfaction with this announcement. I hope the review will result in full adherence to the letter of the accord. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Harsher' Entry Criteria for Arabs Cited

TA1810173295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Report by Shirley Mushayov]

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure imposed on the territories a month ago was lifted yesterday. The roadblocks reopened, but they are more closely controlled. On the eve of the closure, some 35,000 Palestinians were employed in Israel; 8,400 of them will have to stay home from now on. Upon lifting the closure, the authorities allowed the entry of only 26,600 laborers. The security situation has deteriorated, and the Labor and Social and Welfare Ministry decided to deal with it by introducing harsher criteria.

As of today, the only laborers allowed in Israel from Gaza are 35 years of age and older; before the closure, the minimum age was 30. The minimum age for laborers from the West Bank went up from 28 to 30. In both cases, only married men will be allowed in.

The civilian work force in Judaea and Samaria stands at 250,000 people, of whom 190,000 are employed in the region. According to Civil Administration data, the unemployment rate stands at 10 percent, some 25,000 people. Some 60,000 Palestinians are employed in the self-rule area and some 14,000 work in Israel and the Erez area. The Palestinian Authority claims that the unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip is almost 50 percent of the work force.

Intelligence Community Reports on PA's Performance

TA1910150895 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 19 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat's move from Gaza to Ramallah and its conversion into the Palestinians' center of political activity will lead to serious friction between Ramallah and Jerusalem. Faysal al-Husayni will not permit the focus of activity to be moved outside Jerusalem, even if it is to adjacent towns, such as Ramallah and Bethlehem, and the friction between the two men will increase. This was said by a senior security source at the defense establishment's deliberations on the implementation of Oslo B, held at the Intelligence Branch camp near the Glilot Junction. The deliberations

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were attended by leading Civil Administration figures, including the governors of towns, as well as senior officials in the Shin Bet, the Foreign Ministry, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The deliberations were aimed at summing up the implementation of the redeployment plan with all Israeli elements. The meeting was opened with an intelligence community overview of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] current activities.

On security, they were told that the PA is doing 100 percent more than it did in the past, but that is still 50 percent less than which the PA is capable of. The intelligence source recalled the detentions of potential suicide bombers, the uncovering of weapons caches recently, and the detention of instigators. On the other hand, the detentions are ineffective since most are released quite fast. He said the courts set up by 'Arafat handed down death sentences on murderers, but at 'Arafat's order not a single order has been carried out. "Their judicial system would not have met any of our criteria," the source said.

The participants were told that there has been an economic improvement in the Gaza Strip, but it is far from the rosy descriptions described in the press. "The pictures of bikinis on the beach are far from the truth. There are women in modern dress but none in bikinis," the meeting was told. It was noted that the donor states transferred only 50 percent — $300 million — of what was promised. The Palestinians, they were told, are deliberately painting impressive pictures of economic growth in order to convince the donor states to increase their contributions.

It was reported that while the PA's relations with Jordan are improving, its ties with Syria are in constant decline. Egypt, on the other hand, has opened the gate for 'Arafat to the Gulf and contributed to the PA's new legitimacy in the United States.

It was also noted that the PA is participating in gatherings to which only states are invited, and Israel has warned senior PLO officials that this is a violation of their agreement.

Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of activities in the territories, who opened the deliberations, said that a new situation has been created on the ground. "The agreement is just a piece of paper. What will decide matters is implementation of the agreement," he said.

Fatah Hawk Given Life Term for Murder

TA1910142395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Oct 95 p A8

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nabulus military court, presided over by Lieutenant Colonel Eli Zukerman, yesterday handed down four life terms and another 20 years to Jihad Murshad 'Atya 'Annan, a senior activist in the Fatah Hawks, for murdering four Palestinians he suspected of collaboration. 'Annan interrogated the four, all residents of Tulkarm, and murdered them with his own hands during June, July, and August 1994.

Security forces captured 'Annan following searches. The murders were perpetrated following the agreement in principle between Israel and the Palestinians. During the searches, a warehouse was discovered near 'Annan's home, which included rifles, grenades, masks, and axes. It appears that he was a quartermaster for the Fatah Hawks unit which operated in Tulkarm, providing them with weapons.

The defendant did not react to the punishment. People close to him said that he is certain he will be released with the other Palestinian prisoners.

Labor To Confront 'Likud, Right-Wing Violence'

TA1810060395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The action committee for the struggle over the street which was set up by Labor party and Histadrut trade union activists will convene this morning in order to formulate ways to confront what the organizers describe as the Likud and right-wing violence against the prime minister and the members of the cabinet.

Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports that the action committee wants its members to attend every appearance by the prime minister and cabinet members in order to offer them public support. The Labor party's Young Guard seeks to organize a mass rally in support of the government.

Likud Knesset faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav describes the allegations voiced by the Labor party as a blood slur. The Likud faction will meet today to discuss the matter.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Likud will also discuss the party's reaction to what it considers the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] overly hasty withdrawal from Palestinian towns in Judaea and Samaria.

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Netanyahu Charges Rabin With Heading Incitement

TA1910083895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Sarah Honig and Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday vehemently rejected Labor accusations that the Likud is responsible for fomenting violence and inciting the public.

"This is libel and they know it. Whenever there have been outbursts we disapproved of, we wasted no time in condemning them, though they came from the fringes and not from Likud quarters, and were acts of individuals whom we could not control nor had any prior knowledge of their plans," Netanyahu said.

"However, while on the right of the political divide such behavior comes from the sidelines, from the grass roots, on the left it comes from high up, and first and foremost in practicing political incitement is none other than the prime minister," he said.

At a special Likud faction session, Netanyahu accused Rabin of being "the national inciter" and said the government is responsible for the extremist violence on the streets. "Who was it who called half the nation 'Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] collaborators?'" he asked.

Netanyahu again called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to meet with him in an effort to defuse the volatile political situation. His previous attempts to confer with Rabin were rejected. The renewed attempt to meet came in the wake of news yesterday of Labor organizing to "conquer the street from the Likud."

The Likud was seething yesterday at what even mild-mannered MK [Knesset Member] Dan Meridor termed "Labor's attempt to set up its own private police. This smacks too much of what we saw in undemocratic states when parties had their own militias. It will only encourage warfare in the street if Labor takes the law into its own hands and decides on punitive measures and where and when these are to be meted out." [passage omitted]

Ramallah Protesters Dispersed With Stun Grenades

TA1710171395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hundreds of relatives of Palestinian prisoners demonstrated in Ramallah today demanding their release. Israeli soldiers dispersed the crowd with stun grenades, lightly injuring one Palestinian, after the protesters began throwing stones.

Also in Ramallah, a firebomb was thrown at a Border Police patrol. No one was injured, and there was no damage.

Rabin: No Intention of Early Knesset Elections

TA1910151695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he has no intention of bringing the Knesset elections forward. In a meeting of the Labor secretariat, Rabin said the government intends to fulfill its duty for the term granted to it by law. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Ministers Shim'on Peres and Avraham Shohat also expressed their opposition to early elections. Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili made the same point this morning.

Concern Over U.S. Recommendation To Cancel RPV Order

TA1910142795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 19 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] is deeply concerned about the recommendation by a Pentagon committee to halt the U.S. Army's procurement of the Israeli remotely piloted vehicle [RPV], the Hunter, and will try to foil the attempt.

The U.S. Army ordered seven RPV's to the tune of $240 million, and five have already been supplied. If the committee's decision is implemented, it will not only cut back the current deal, but will mainly harm the chances for additional contracts.

The committee's recommendation is apparently chiefly due to several faults discovered while testing the Israeli RPV in the United States. In three tests the vehicle was destroyed. Criticism was also voiced in the United States of the complexity of the RPV's systems and nondurability under field conditions.

The IAI spokeswoman refused to comment on the committee's recommendation.

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Israeli Foreign Minister Peres Pays Visit

King, Crown Prince Receive Peres

JN1810145595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Israeli Foreign Minister Mr. Shim'on Peres at Raghadan Palace this afternoon in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. The meeting took place following Jordanian-Israeli talks held today, co-chaired by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Mr. Peres in the presence of ministers and specialists from both sides.

His majesty was briefed on the talks and on the joint issues between Jordan and Israel, which will be proposed as future projects within the framework of Amman Economic Summit for Middle East and North Africa Development. His majesty was briefed by Mr. Shim'on Peres on the Israeli view of projects related to the future development of the region.

His majesty said the future perspective of regional development should be be comprehensive and balanced. He added that the upcoming Amman economic summit will seek to realize this.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister, minister of education, and acting foreign minister.

Prince, Peres Speak to Reporters

JN1810180595 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has received visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who earlier held talks with His Royal Highness Prince Hasan.

His majesty was assured on the progress of the talks. in which ministers and experts from the two countries took part, and the joint Jordanian-Israeli ventures to be presented to the Amman Middle East and North Africa summit later this month.

During the audience at Raghadan Palace, which was attended by his royal highness the crown prince and the deputy premier and minister of education, Mr. Peres briefed his majesty on Israel's views on future development projects in the region. His majesty said regional development had to be comprehensive and balanced, noting that this idea would be promoted by the Amman summit.

Alone, the government of Jordan is presenting 27 projects worth 3.5 billion dollars, and the private sector is preparing a list of 136 projects estimated at 1.2 billion dollars.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said a regional outlook has to encompass all states of the Middle East to understand developmental dimension of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Prince Hasan told a press conference after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres the regional outlook with regard to infrastructure, manpower, and economic indications would be discussed by governments, the private sector, and the banking sector at the upcoming Amman summit.

His royal highness said today's meeting was important, noting that it was vital to concentrate and commit the parties to the accomplishment of what was hard in the current circumstances, and consolidate their steps towards the summit. He said the economic process is not restricted to the Amman gathering, but to ensuring negotiations in Barcelona as well.

Prince Hasan told reporters the parties should manifest to the world a regional will to build a new reality with regard to commercial negotiations, transport, the Jordan Rift Valley, and other areas. He said coordination meetings would be held among all Middle Eastern countries prior and during the Amman summit to try to develop a comprehensive regional concept.

Mr. Peres said that Jordan's concept of comprehensive development was the most advanced in the Middle East. The real challenge before the region, he said, was how to enter the 21st century which should witness regional cooperation, industries based on science, and computerized education.

The Israeli foreign minister told reporters he hoped the Middle East would be a free-trade zone to serve the peoples of the region. He said the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli trade agreement did not mean excluding other parties in the region.

The talks between his royal highness and the Israeli foreign minister were attended by Deputy Premier and Minister of Education 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, Minister of Transport Samir Qa'war, Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Tourism Minister 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Khatib, President of al-'Aqabah Region Authority Fayiz al-Khasawinah, and Jordan's Ambassador to Israel Marwan al- Mu'ashshir.

Attending the talks on the Israeli side were Minister of Trade Mikha Harish, Minister of Transport Yisra'el Qeysar, Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am, and Israel's Ambassador in Amman Shim'on Shamir.

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More on Hasan, Peres Statements

JN1810211895 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video by Suzan 'Afanah; from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he believes the 21st century will be an era of regional cooperation, and so his talks in Amman and other meetings over the past months have highlighted that theme.

Peres traveled to Amman this morning with a delegation of three ministers and headed to a meeting and talks with the crown prince. Both men sought to set out their visions for regional economic development and the post-peace era, and specifically ahead of Amman economic summit. And this meant focussing on regional projects which Jordan and Israel will implement with other regional parties.

Such projects include development of the Jordan Rift Valley and al-'Aqabah.

[Begin recording] [Hasan] I believe it is an extremely functional meeting. It comes at rather a tragic moment in terms of the spiral of violence in the region. I think it is important to stress our shared committing to doing very difficult things in hard times, that is to say consolidating steps toward the conference, and in deed, to the whole economic process, which as you know is not inclusive only of the MENA [Middle East and North Africa] summit in Amman but also of the Barcelona meeting. I think we have to serve notice on the world that there is a regional will to build a new reality, and I think that in this context the discussion of trade, the discussion of transportation, the discussions of Jordan Rift Valley development and many other issues is beginning to crystallize not only in bilateral agreement because it is not exclusive exercise, I hasten to stress, it is not exclusive of anyone but in the contribution to a concept which we hope will develop broad-based regional and intra- regional cooperation with Europe and the Western hemisphere on the one side, and East Asia on the other. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Foreign Minister, yesterday Jordan approved a free-trade agreement with Israel. What impact will it have on Jordanian-Israeli cooperation? Do you plan any similar agreements with other regional parties?

[Peres] I think, hopefully, the whole Middle East will become a free trade region. It is for the benefit of all peoples. What we are doing is a pioneering agreement. We don't want to exclude anybody. The world is becoming actually united market, and markets today are as important as countries. I think following the peace, we are trying to build an economy which will make the people feel the fruits of the peace.

[Correspondent] Sir, this meeting comes ahead of the summit. Do you plan any other coordination meetings with other regional parties?

[Hasan] There will be coordination meetings with all the regional parties, but before and during the summit, and I believe that what we are developing is a contribution to a future of a regional concept. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sea Border, Transportation Agreement Signed

TA1810175295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Peres and Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan have reached agreement on the two countries' maritime border in the Gulf of Elat. The agreement states in principle that the border will cross the midline of the gulf. The talks on the maritime agreement were also attended by Israeli Defense Ministry representatives and one of the Jordanian Army chiefs.

Mr. Peres and Ministers Harish, Qeysar, and Bar'am arrived in Amman at midday today. Several other agreements were achieved in the talks, including one stating that the two countries will sign a trade agreement next week, and that customs discounts on both countries' goods will be agreed on after the trade agreement is ratified.

An Israeli-Jordanian transportation agreement will be signed at the beginning of November in Haifa, and a month later, Israelis will be able to enter Jordan with their private vehicles. Abcut a month and a half later, six bus lines will connect Israel and Jordan.

As for the sphere of tourism, it was agreed that ministers from the two countries will meet prior to the Amman economic conference to negotiate an agreement on a shared Red Sea riviera that will connect al-'Aqabah, Elat, and Taba.

Reports from Amman further state that before the talks were over, King Husayn arrived and met with Minister Peres.

Trade, Protocol Agreement With Israel Approved

JN1810183995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held a session this evening under the chairmanship of His

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Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. During the session, the council approved the trade and protocol agreement with Israel and authorized the industry and trade minister to sign it and its annexes, which include lists of duty-free commodities and certificates of origin, with his Israeli counterpart on behalf of the government.

Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib has stated that the long time spent reaching the agreement was due to the importance of the topics and efforts to safeguard Jordan's interests.

Jordan, he said, has obtained a recognition of the principle of the difference in the volume of the two countries' economies, as well as a reduction in customs duties on Jordanian commodities. Duty on lists of Jordanian commodities exported to the Israeli market was reduced by 20 to 50 percent, in addition to another list of totally duty-free commodities, while duty on a list of limited Israeli commodities was reduced by 10 percent.

King Views Preparations for Economic Summit

JN1410203495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn, accompanied by His Higness Crown Prince Hasan and the king's military secretary, His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, visited the prime minister's office today. He was received by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir, chairman of the Council of Ministers; 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al- Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and education minister; and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister.

His Majesty King Husayn chaired part of the cabinet's weekly meeting and reassured himself about preparations for convening the Amman economic summit. He also gave his royal instructions. Following the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to correspondents.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] How do you view government preparations to hold the summit?

[Husayn] in fact, the preparations are perfect in every way one can imagine. The summit will be a good one in the full sense of the word, God willing. In itself, the summit is a turning point and a new starting point. We should always be alert regarding the individual in this country and his promising future, God willing.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty the king, what are Jordan's views on this summit in terms of the projects and the working papers that will be submitted?

[Husayn] I think many projects will be submitted, and there will be communication between the participating elements—the government or the private sector of the homeland in particular—other governments, and the financing and economic parties. Major companies will also take part. There is a complete plan to achieve the goal of dialogue and understanding in order to present all projects that may be of interest. As a result, we hope we will reach direct agreements on some of these projects during the conference. Afterward, we hope we will continue the process.

[Correspondent] As the date of the economic summit approaches, what do you say to the international community and the Arab community in light of the first signs of large-scale participation?

[Husayn] I believe that the international community knows the importance of this stage in the life of the entire region. Consequently, it will be a partner and a principal party in the current process. Regarding our brothers in the Arab world, of course we welcome them all, and we hope they will be major participants in what can be achieved in the present and future interest of the Arab individual, due to the fact that the Arabs are part of this world.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, how do you view the post-summit era? Jordan always has a comprehensive view of ensuing stages. How do you view the next economic stage?

[Husayn] Regarding the future, the talk is now about the participating Arab countries. We hope this participation will expand to encompass all the fraternal countries that are interested in the future. It is a beginning on the right past, God willing. We hope each will realize his wishes in a region that is experiencing a stage of stability, peace, and security. We hope that each individual will have the chances to achieve his wishes in this life.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Husayn] By God, I would like to express my respect for anyone I mention. I am not President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; nor is Jordan Libya in his happy reign. We are all one family, one hand, and one heart, and no one will never be harmed in this country regarding his right, his situation, and his future. I wonder about such an uproar. May be there are judiciary cases and demands, but these will be dealt with by officials as it happened in the past. This is not the first time that such cases are dealt with or raised. No one will be harmed or feel that this will harm him in any way, particularly the al-muhajirin [Palestinian] brothers, who are part of this march. Regarding the rights of people, we will safeguard them, and there is no difference between one individual

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and another. I said more than once that he who says the opposite will be my foe until doomsday. [end recording]

Syrian Absence From Summit Said 'Unjustified'

JN1810181695 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Oct 95 pp 24, 39

["Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "No Justification for Boycotting the Economic Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian brothers should be the first to attend the Amman economic summit after they met face-to-face with and sat next to the Israelis at the Madrid conference and during the Washington meetings, and before that, following the October 1973 war.

The Syrian brothers declare and continue to declare that they are ready for reconciliation with Israel, for a peace agreement with it, and that all they want—after the Palestinian brothers assumed responsibility for their own cause—is Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 borders, with no early-warning stations; and from the occupied southern strip of Lebanon, which is witnessing tension that may lead to confrontations more violent than those at present.

Is meeting face-to-face with, or sitting beside the Israelis permissible in Madrid and Washington and elsewhere—some of these meetings were declared and others remained secret—while it is forbidden to meet with them in Amman?

In refusing to attend Amman summit, the Syrian brothers' likely objective is to employ pressure in order to spur their track, and their objective can be their declared one, which is their argument that the Israelis will benefit the most from this summit. However, in both cases, isn't it better for them to attend and present their views at this international political-economic festival and say to the world what they are saying to one another?

Let's assume that the view which says Israel will be the first beneficiary from this summit—although this requires more scrutiny— Isn't it better in such a case that the Arab and Syrian presence be strong and effective in order to create a critical mass at this summit, change its resolutions in the Arabs' favor and solve their many aggravating problems?

The logic of the Syrian brothers is entirely unconvincing. This stance on the Amman summit can be acceptable from a rejectionist country such as the great [Libyan] Jamahiriyah or Iran that did not join the peace process from the start. But for Syria, which removed the psychological barriers with Israel since its recognition of Resolution 242, its refusal to attend this summit is unjustified. Syria's presence will serve its interests and Arab interests, and will strengthen its negotiating position in the talks that are taking place with Israel in various forms, which will soon resume in an open manner.

Recent U.S. Moves Ahead of Amman Summit Praised

JN1810213595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 17

[Editorial: "A Positive Decision Ahead of the Amman Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Containing the explosive situation in southern Lebanon and defusing the bomb that was planted along the road to peace by a U.S. Congressional draft bill on transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem are two positive elements. These two elements occurred only a few days ahead of the Amman Economic Summit on Middle East and North Africa Development.

The official U.S. recognition by the assistant secretary of state yesterday that Jerusalem is the essence of peace, and the announcement that the U.S. Administration will hinder the Congress draft bill are two positive steps toward clearing the atmosphere ahead of the Amman summit. These steps lend support to the peace process and will help advance negotiations, which should not be influenced by premature, unilateral decisions. Efforts undertaken over the past few days to prevent Israel from escalating the situation in southern Lebanon have also helped stave off further complications in this significant period preceding the Amman economic development summit. The summit is an unprecedented event in this region, which until a short time ago as a most favored market for arms trafficking, which ignites and inflames tribulations and wars.

The U.S. Administration's position on the issue of Jerusalem vis- a-vis the Congress, and efforts to ease mutual violence in southern Lebanon and pressure Israel to refrain from committing further violence at this time, vindicate the Jordanian position. This position is based on stressing the need for further meetings, dialogue, and building bridges for the sake of development and construction. Peace is not accomplished through the policy of the fait accompli and the use of force. The sustainability and strength of peace are contingent on justice, comprehensiveness, and people's readiness to live within its framework. The Amman summit will make it possible for governments and the private sector to explore new aspects of cooperation and investment, whose dividends will benefit everyone. Thus, this summit will open up new avenues for interaction and dialogue along

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the path of regional development under peace. Such development will meet the peoples' aspirations for equitability and improvement of their living standards on a solid basis of security, stability, and the conviction that justice has become possible result at the end of the current peacemaking efforts.

Jordan will host the largest regional and international meeting in Amman in only a few more days. More efforts to prevent escalation, the imposition of a fait accompli in Jerusalem and elsewhere, and forestalling of the final negotiations' results will facilitate achievement Jordan's objectives. These goals are represented in justice, security, stability, and improvement of living conditions for all under cooperation and peace.

Senator's Move To Transfer U.S. Embassy Deplored

JN1810165795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Oct 95 pp 1, 39

[Editorial: "Where Do We Stand on Moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the U.S. Administration is continuing a policy characterized by moderation, wisdom, and foresight regarding the Jerusalem issue, feverish moves continue in the U.S. Congress to pass a resolution committing President Clinton's administration to moving the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem before the end of 1999.

It is no secret that the parties standing behind such a move, which tramples on the sensibilities of approximately one billion Muslims, are the extremist Zionist groups. These groups adopt the Likud Party's policy, which persists in making moves designed to halt the peace process and do anything that would further poison the Middle East atmosphere.

Senator Robert Dole or other Senators and U.S. representatives who aspire to the presidency or other posts will not cause us to overlook the real forces standing behind the attempt to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem—especially since we know that the Zionist organizations will not hesitate to raise this issue in each round of U.S. presidential elections.

While watching Senator Robert Dole's feverish activity designed to depict himself as the primaray defender of Israeli interests, it is regrettable that all this continued activity has thus far not drawn any serious Arab-Islamic reaction, even on the level of Arab parliaments, at least to support the U.S. Administration's position as long as President Clinton continues to reject this flagrant, provocative move.

In view of this fact, and without panic, we call for coordinated Arab-Islamic parliamentary action involving the heads of the concerned branches and committees in the Arab and Islamic parliaments in order to make pressures similar to the pressures of the U.S. Zionist organizations, show the extent of indignation and anger toward Senator Dole's detestable move, and grant the U.S. Administration a significant card, so it will continue to adhere to its current policy on moving the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem.

Arabs Losing U.S. 'Public Opinion Battle' on Jerusalem

JN1910091295 Amman THE STAR in English 19 Oct 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Jerusalem as a Local U.S. Issue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Current attempts by the U.S. Congress to pass a bill requiring President Clinton to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem contradict the objectives of the ongoing peace process and gravely threaten American interests in the region.

The issue resurfaces every time hopefuls for the highest office in the United States prepare to launch their presidential election campaign. This time it is Senator Bob Dole who is spearheading the campaign with the hope of recruiting much-needed Jewish votes in his bid to defeat President Clinton in next year's elections. Naturally, the issue is dealt with as a domestic one without the slightest concern for foreign policy priorities and the repercussions that such an issue might have on American vital interests in the Middle East.

Because of its domestic nature, presidential hopefuls care less for what we as Arabs and Muslims think about their motion and how we might react if such a bill is passed. Moreover, the candidates know very well that it does not matter if Mr. Clinton adopts the bill or not so long, as they manage to attract important votes from the influential Jewish-American. Mr. Clinton himself vowed to move the embassy to Jerusalem if elected, but in the Oval Office he was later persuaded by his advisers to disregard the issue.

Today, Mr. Clinton will find it difficult to veto the bill for re-election considerations. President Clinton had announced recently that the issue of Jerusalem is better left for Palestinian and Israeli negotiators in the final phase which, though, is still many years away.

With this in mind, we as Arabs can only express our indignation at these tactical moves which only serve to tarnish America's credibility in our part of the world, and give the opponents of peace the ammunition they need to lash at the peace process and its achievements.

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While the issue of Jerusalem will probably remain dormant for some time, it is important to consider that the battle for Jerusalem will be a public opinion one once this issue becomes open for negotiations, if Israel of course permits. The Arab states must understand the motives behind making Jerusalem a local issue for American candidates. And that's why we should prepare from now to assist Arab-Americans in their drive to counter the ongoing debate on Capital Hill.

By empowering Arab-Americans, presidential hopefuls will begin to realize that just as they stand to gain Jewish votes by calling for the embassy's relocation, they at the same time stand to lose sizable Arab-American votes because of that.

The Dole campaign should help enlighten us about the pressures that will be endured by the American president when the issue of Jerusalem is presented to the negotiators. His Majesty King Husayn has successfully explained Jordan's policy from the holy city of Jerusalem. But he is alone in his endeavors. It will take more than the good intentions of the Arab leaders to restore Jerusalem to the Arab fold. So far we have been losing the public opinion battle.

Iraq Referendum, UAE Leader's Remarks Examined

JN1810185095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 22

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Baghdad Referendum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When one monitors reaction to the referendum on the presidency in Iraq, particularly the reactions of Washington and London, one reaches the conclusion that these people address mentally retarded people in this part of the world. This is because the friends and brothers, our leaders and presidents, rule on the basis of similar referendums, or on the basis of tribal legitimacy.

The Iraqi model that is acceptable to Washington and London is the Talabani-Barzani model, or that of Ahmad al-Jalabi. The Iraqis have been under siege for more than five years. During that period, the only aspects they have experienced of the democracy Washington and London preach about are starvation, the death of their children, and the destruction of every living thing in their country.

We are not justifying anything here. We do not condone the one- man rule. What we say here will neither consolidate a political regime in Iraq nor topple it. We are only concerned about our brothers, a proud and generous Arab people who stood by our side even when they were facing a crisis, and who took part in all Arab battles.

We believe that the move from revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy, even if limited, is a step forward. We believe that political pluralism should be the next step. This pluralism does not necessarily mean the acceptance of the opposition, which is abroad and which has proved over the past five years in northern Iraq, Tehran, or London that it cannot carry out the necessary reforms.

We believe that the Iraqis have voted because they are aware of two facts. The first fact is that any substitute to the State's central authority will result in disaster, and we will have another Yugoslavia. The fighting and the U.S.-Turkish-Iranian interference in northern Iraq are glaring evidence of such a disaster. The second fact is the Iraqi people' spirit of defiance toward the international forces which have imposed a siege on Iraq, and the need to confound the pitiful justifications put forth by some UN Security Council members and Arabs.

The United Arab Emirates president yesterday said things which call for respect: Those who agree to allow the Iraqis to starve cannot have Arab blood running in their veins!

Prince: Iran Must Be Part of Regional Plans

LD1810212595 Tehran IRNA in English 2052 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — "Cooperation between regional countries and Iran's categorical participation in any regional security arrangements is unquestionable," Jordanian Heir Apparent, Amir Hasan announced in Jordan on Tuesday [17 October].

Hasan made the remark in a meeting with director general of the department of International Political Studies (IPS) of Iranian Foreign Ministry, Ahmad Hajihoseyni, in Jordan.

He said that his country was ready to make arrangements for talks between Arabs and Iran in acquainting the two parties of their stance and analysis.

Important regional issues were discussed at their meeting.

West Bankers To Receive Five-Year Passports

JN1810173195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has instructed the director general of the Civil Status and Passports Department and the director of the

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Follow-Up and Inspection Department to grant five-year passports [permament passports as compared to temporary two-year passports] to West Bank residents holding green cards, including those who wish to obtain passports for the first time or renew their passports for another five years when their passports expire. According to the instructions, the green cards, which are used for statistical purposes at the bridges [between Jordan and the West Bank], should be retained. Also according to the instructions, marriage contracts by holders of Jordanian passports in the West Bank shall be accepted at the personal status courts after being authenticated as appropriate. It has been instructed not to change the green or yellow cards possessed by West Bankers.

Party Leaders on Official Policies, Public Apathy

JN1810162895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Oct 95 p 3

[Special to JORDAN TIMES by Lula al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Political parties have played a major role in shaping Jordan's policies but their participation in the Kingdom's contemporary political life has been severely curtailed by the government, leaders of three political parties stated Monday.

These politicians also cited government policies as being largely behind what they see as the insignificant participation of citizens in the Kingdom's political life.

At a seminar hosted by the International and Islamic Centre for Research and Information entitled "Political Parties after Three Years of Legislation", 'Isa Madanat, head of the Jordanian Democratic Unionist Party, [as published] said that as a result of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty democracy in Jordan had suffered a setback.

"In order to have parliamentarians in support of the government line, the 1989 parliament was dissolved prior to the end of its full legal term, and a new election law, 'one-man, one-vote,' was dictated," Mr. Madanat said.

Yusuf Abu-Bakr, head of the Arab-Islamic Democratic Movement (Dua'a), accused the government of banning a scheduled opposition conference on the normalisation of ties between the government and Israel a few months ago.

On May 18, the government announced that a coalition of nine hardline political parties could hold a public rally, but reversed that decision 11 days later, banning the rally shortly before it was to convene.

He also charged that the government with "intimidating" Jordanians from joining opposition parties.

Mr. Abu-Bakr said the government was also behind the spread of rumours accusing some members of parties of being "spies" for Arab or foreign countries. He added that these sorts of accusations undermine the important role parties play in a democracy.

Jordan Democratic Populist Unity Party Secretary General 'Abd-al- Razzaq Sa'id said research and study centres point out that Jordanians are not convinced of the role of opposition parties due to their "weak" positions. These studies do not, however, consider the reasons behind the circumstances that inevitably lead to the weakening of opposition parties.

Mr. Madanat said the large number of parties in the Kingdom was one reason for the small membership in the parties.

Mr. Madanat called for "merging" parties with the same political aims.

He said the five leftist parties could merge into one, and four other parties could also join forces under one banner. He did not elaborate.

He added that right-wing parties were "competing for a bigger share of the cake," and therefore would be less willing to merge.

The Jordanian Democratic Unionist Party, established in September, was the first party to be formed from a union of three left-wing parties: The Democratic Socialist Party, the Arab Democratic Party, the Democratic Progressive party.

Mr. Sa'id said that his party and the Democratic Peoples Party plan to merge. He added that a lack of democratic practice among members of most registered parties has led to internal rifts.

Mr. Madanat said those who criticize political parties seem to have forgotten the decisive role parties played during 1940 and 1950, in protecting Jordan's national interest.

"Political parties stood firmly against the Baghdad Pact, Eisenhower's doctrines, the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty, and the Middle Eastern Defence Pact, all of which were against Jordan's national interests," said Mr. Madanat.

Members of the audience at the seminar said that the incompetence prevalent among party members in adopting practical solutions to Jordan's problems was another reason behind citizens' lack of interest in political life.

In comments after the presentations, Zahran Jamus, a member of the audience, said parties should use "convincing arguments" and not only "emotions" in their political agenda.

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Another attendee, Muhammad 'Azzah, said, "Political parties should look to the past to see how political convictions were effective in addressing and influencing the political climate."

Government Controls Urged on Rising Living Costs

JN1910081595 Amman THE STAR in English 19 Oct 95 p 2

[Column by Marwan al-Asmar: "Fat Cats and Market Sharks"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the ballyhoo with the Amman Economic Summit, there is something much more fundamental that has afflicted our society in the last six months: prices and the cost of living.

It seems that ever since the Sales Tax became law, prices of essential commodities have just been going up and up and up. While the Sales Tax does not apply to essential commodities, the fat cats and the market sharks are now increasing their prices under the guise of the law. Market chaos is now dominating.

Prices of basic consumer needs have become exorbitant. These include most foodstuffs and even basic services like public transport and communications. What is amazing is that an increase in prices just tends to filter through all the public complaints, as though the market was separated from popular demand.

Even the Lower House of Parliament recognized this during its discussion of the Prices Foodstuffs Report in the last Extraordinary Session. It urged the Government for a greater control of prices.

Rising prices are becoming a heavy burden on the individual citizen and are certainly not in line with wages, despite the fact that employees were given an extra JD 10 on their basic monthly salary, starting next year.

What is needed is a firmer policy on the part of Government. Clearly, the Ministry of Supply, the official body that is charged with monitoring prices, is not doing its job properly. While it puts price tags on commodities for individual shop owners, it does not follow up.

We must have more supervision and more government inspectors to monitor prices. Until we do that, the market will be open for a free for all, with floating prices carrying the day.

We do not yet have floating prices, except on certain commodities, but if there is no supervision, this would mean that the government is turning a blind eye, something which it rejects as an exaggeration.

This is a view that has been taken by government critics who argue that the ultimate aim is to float prices, albeit surreptiously, in line with the externally imposed policies of the World Bank.

While the World Bank wants a freer, more liberal economy that relies on the market, government must take heed and consider the possible consequences.

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Al-Hariri Links Israeli Withdrawal, Halt to Violence

NC1810180195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stressed that the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories [in Lebanon] will end the cycle of violence in the south. He pointed out that the solution lies in the Israeli withdrawal because the continuation of the current state of affairs and Israel's continued aggressions against the south will be met by counteracts, which keeps the situation as it is.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz spoke about diplomatic contacts with the United States to prevent Israel from launching any new aggression against Lebanon. He said the violence in the south is caused by Israel's occupation of part of the south and by the violence Israel is practicing through arrests, demolition of houses, artillery shelling, and air raids. He stressed that no one in Lebanon can stop the resistance as long as there are no guarantees for the return of the usurped land.

Buwayz Receives Call From Arab League Chief

NC1810203495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received a telephone call from Arab league Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid this evening. During the conversation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his support and that of the Arab League for Lebanon. He inquired about the prevailing situation in the south and Western al-Biqa' and about the expected eventualities.

The Arab League secretary general asked Buwayz if Lebanon wants the Arab League council to hold an extraordinary session to study the situation in the south. Minister Buwayz and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid agreed to continue consultations. Buwayz told Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that Lebanon is watching the situation and that it will adopt the appropriate stand on any new developments.

Fadlallah Views 'Wide-Scale' Attack, Assails U.S.

NC1910075595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that there are no prospects for a wide-scale Israeli attack on Lebanon in the current situation. He added that Israel's response to the latest resistance operations will be limited and confined to certain areas or an assassination-style military retaliation. This, he noted, requires everyone in the Islamic Resistance to study the situation in a scrupulous military way.

At a weekly Koranic interpretation lesson, his eminence said there are no prospects for a wide-scale attack on Lebanon in the current situation. This is because of the political situation, especially the climate of settlement. Also previous experiences have shown that any Zionist invasion, like that of 1982 or the air assault in 1993, achieved nothing for Israel but made it lose more soldiers, he added.

'Allamah Fadlallah emphasized that the problem with the United States is a problem with the devil, who does not argue about his erroneous policies and tries to beat around the bush. He noted that the U.S. strategy assumes that Israel is always right and that the Arabs and Muslims are always wrong in their conflict with Israel.

His eminence said when people tell the United States that Israel has occupied Lebanon, it refuses to describe Israel as an occupying state. Instead, it says Israel's presence in Lebanon aims to preserve its security, while the United States does not give any other country a justification to occupy another country.

Ayatollah Fadlallah said Israel's moves, daily shelling of the south and the western al-Biqa', and threats against civilians are carried out with complete freedom, having been given a green light by the United States.

Former Prime Minister Assails 'Biased' U.S. Stand

NC1810130995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has said the United States will be regarded as a partner of Israel if the latter attacks Lebanon in retaliation for the Resistance's recent qualitative attacks on its soldiers.

In a statement today, al-Huss said the U.S. Administration has shown us that it is biased in Israel's favor, even for Israel's aggression against Lebanon. The U.S. Administration, he added, ignores the Lebanese people's right to defend themselves in the face of those who are occupying their land in the south and al-Biqa' and it equalizes the aggressor and the victim.

[Former] Prime Minister al-Huss expressed astonishment at the U.S. Administration's current stand on Lebanon and recalled that if Lebanon's UN Resolution 425 were implemented, there would be no need for resistance. Ignoring this resolution, he added, encouraged Israel to intensify its threats against Lebanon.

Moreover, Deputy 'Imad Jabir has denounced the recent U.S. stand, noting that it did not distinguish between the victim and the murderer and ignored the daily attacks

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on our land in the south. He asked how the United States publicizes this position when it knows that the Israeli soldiers who died in the south were killed in a Lebanese territory that they occupied and ravaged. The Israeli soldiers, he added, occupied the inhabitants of the south and turned them into sandbags for their own protection.

Deputy Jabir said the Lebanese people's resistance to occupation is honest, legitimate, and endorsed by all laws and norms. He added that the resistance will continue until it accomplishes its task of forcing the Israelis to unconditionally pull out of Lebanese territories.

Cabinet on Situation in South, Military Operations

NC1810152795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At its ordinary session today the council of ministers decided to continue diplomatic contacts, particularly with the United States, in a bid to put an end to Israeli attacks on the south and its inhabitants.

Information Minister Farid Makari, who read the decisions, said that the Lebanese stance is firm with regard to the Israeli threats, Lebanon's commitment to resolution 425, and Israel's commitment to its withdrawal from the occupied land.

The council of ministers noted that the citizens, especially those in the south, are entitled to struggle to obtain their rights. The council of ministers pointed out that the past and present military operations were carried out inside Lebanese territory. It said that such reprisals would not have taken place had it not been for the Israeli attacks and provocative acts.

Makari Comments on Meeting

NC1810180095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Oct 95

[News conference by Information Minister Farid Makari with unidentified correspondents after a Council of Ministers ordinary meeting on 18 October; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Makari] The Council of Ministers held its ordinary session under His Excellency Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today. The session was devoted to discussing the situation in the south in light of recent developments, the Israeli threats, and the subsequent positions and comments. The prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister informed the other ministers of the ongoing contacts, through diplomatic channels, to address the situation in the south. The Council of Ministers asked that these contacts continue, especially with the United States, to put an end to Israeli threats and aggressions.

The Council of Ministers concerned itself with emphasizing Lebanon's firm position toward the repeated Israeli threats; namely, adherence to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territory. This position was, and will remain, the basis of Lebanon's participation in the peace negotiations that started in Madrid. It is known that those negotiations were hindered and deadlocked because of Israel's refusal to recognize and failure to implement the abovementioned resolution.

Lebanon believes that it is the right of its sons, especially in the occupied areas, to struggle to liberate the land and regain the country's right. The military actions over the past two days were carried out inside, not outside, the occupied Lebanese territory. Those operations, which took place inside the occupied Lebanese territory, would not have been carried out had the Israeli aggressions and provocations against the Lebanese territory not continued.

[Correspondent] What was the U.S. response?

[Makari] There is no U.S. response yet. But the American position is surprising. As we all know, an agreement, or semi- agreement was reached in 1993. Nothing new [violated the agreement]. The Israeli patrol that was confronted by the resistance was inside occupied Lebanese territory, not on Israeli territory.

[Correspondent] Does the Council of Ministers have any information that a new major [Israeli] operation in Lebanon may be carried out?

[Makari] There is no such information, but one must always take this into consideration, although we believe that this is out of the question now.

[Correspondent] Minister, Israeli enemy leaders have made threats. Have you taken any preventive measures?

[Makari] Usually, when there is such a big thing, all involved ministries automatically make preparations to face any eventuality. But, God willing, these will be nothing more than threats.

[Correspondent] As regards international contacts, what will Lebanon [words indistinct]?

[Makari] Most countries recognize our right in this issue. Even the United States usually understands this subject. The negotiations and contacts are not complete yet. The foreign minister, naturally, will contact the U.S. Embassy here, and our ambassadors in Washington and

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New York are doing what is necessary. There is no final answer yet.

Defense Officials Discuss Developments in South

NC1910071795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to security sources, Israeli reinforcements were sent to the outskirts of Ramiyah, Rshaf, Jabal Humayd, and Qawzash yesterday. Israeli warplanes flew over the western al-Biqa' yesterday. The Israeli forces in al-Zaffatah and al-'Ayshiyah directed a sporadic 120—mm artillery barrage at al-Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah. These sources also said that 30 Israeli tanks entered the occupied border strip at dawn yesterday via the al-Mtullah crossing point. These tanks have been deployed on the contact lines, particularly in the eastern sector, and to other Israeli posts in this sector.

In the meantime, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallual and Army Commander Emile Lahhud have discussed developments in the south. They stressed the preparedness of army units.

Israeli Mock Raids, Shelling Reported

NC1810135695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cautious tension prevails in the southern areas in light of the Israeli military buildup and threats.

We have learned that the Israeli enemy aircraft have been conducting mock raids over Tyre's villages and suburbs since 1300 today.

This morning, Israeli military aircraft flew over the Western al-Biqa' villages. The enemy planes also carried out mock raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah. The mock raids coincided with shelling against al-Jabal al-Rafi' and the al-Zahrani River basin originating from the occupation forces' post in al-Rayhan.

At 1100, the enemy forces raked the woods of 'Ali al-Tahir and the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit Town with machine guns.

The military situation in the south in light of the latest Israeli escalation was discussed by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. The Lebanese army's readiness in its positions was emphasized.

The governor of al-Nabatiyah, Ghazi Z'aytir, chaired a meeting at the Government House today to discuss medical issues in the area and the needs of government and private hospitals in light of the military developments in the south.

A short time ago we received a statement by Health Minister Marwan Hamadah announcing that the Health Ministry agencies have been put on a state of complete readiness in anticipation of any Israeli attack on the south and the western al-Biqa'.

NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent Naji al-Ghazi has the details. [Begin recording] Health Minister Marwan Hamadah has said that the ministry has taken all medical readiness measures to anticipate any Israeli attacks on the south or the western al-Biqa'. He added that he discussed these measures with the governors of al-Nabatiyah, al- Janub, and al-Biqa', that he placed government hospitals on alert, and that he advised private hospitals to take all precautionary measures.

In a statement after chairing a meeting of the National Bureau for Medicine at the Government House before noon today, Minister Hamadah asserted his rejection of the Israeli threats, saying they are not based on international law and cannot be justified. He said Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz are holding diplomatic contacts and that the army command has taken all the arrangements it deems appropriate. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Israelis Bring More Reinforcements to Border Strip

NC1910104095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to security sources this morning, the Israeli forces brought five Merkava tanks, six armored personnel carriers, and five military trucks to the security strip via the al-Mtullah crossing point at 2100 yesterday. These reinforcements have been stationed at the Ibil al-Saqi road juncture.

Pro-Hizballah Bloc for Extending al-Hirawi's Term

NC1810122295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The [pro-Hizballah] parliamentary Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc led by Deputy Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid has announced that it supports the amendment of Article 49 of the Constitution to allow for the extension of President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term for another three years.

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Damascus To Receive Palestinians With Documents

NC1810155095 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 18 (AFP) - The Syrian charge d'affaires Rustum Zu'bi visited 660 Palestinians stranded on a car-ferry off the coast of Cyprus on Wednesday [18 October] after fleeing Libya and being turned back by Syria, Palestinian diplomats said.

A Syrian embassy spokeswoman confirmed that Zu'bi was in Larnaca, but said she had no further details.

Out of those on board the Greek-owned, Cypriot-flagged Countess M, 82 are Syrian nationals while 508 hold Syrian travel documents. The latter group also have entry permits to Syria issued by the Syrian embassy in Tripoli, Palestinian diplomats said.

The boat packed with workers who had lost their jobs and their families arrived off the island on Tuesday after the passengers were refused entry to Syria on Monday.

There are 332 children on board, 200 of which are under the age of five. Only one woman has been allowed to enter Cyprus, when she was airlifted off the boat Tuesday after going into labour.

Palestinian ambassador Samir Abu-Ghazalah, who visited the boat earlier Wednesday, told AFP negotiations were going on with "parties concerned" to try to solve the situation. Cyprus also refused them entry.

In Gaza, Palestinian labour "minister" Samir Ghawshah said the self-rule authority was in contact with Syrian, Libyan and Cypriot authorities to try to find a compromise."

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi began throwing Palestinians out of the country in early September to show up the failure of the autonomy accords to create a Palestinian homeland.

More than 5,000 have already left, and about 1,000 are trapped in a no man's land between Egypt and Libya.

[AFP at 1527 on 18 October in a similar Nicosia, Cyprus datelined report adds the following: "'Syria will allow most of the Palestinians stranded for six days on board a ship to enter its territory,' the Syrian charge d'affaires Rustum Zu'bi here told AFP Wednesday. 'The Syrian authorities will receive all the Palestinians with Syrian documents,' he said."]

Damascus TV Cites Official Spokesman

JN1810193895 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian authorities will allow all Palestinians with Syrian travel documents currently on board a ship anchored off Larnaca port in Cyprus after being deported from Libya, to enter Syrian territory, an official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told a correspondent of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the authorities concerned will designate a ship to transport those Palestinians from Cyprus to Syria tomorrow after making the necessary arrangements.

Israel 'Responsible' for South Lebanon Escalation

JN1810191095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an article today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Syria has a clear stand on peace. This stand is based on work to achieve peace and provide for its opportunities, because peace is important to both regional and international security and stability. The Syrian stand on peace, the paper continues, is founded on the removal of the causes that have led to the absence of peace from the region. These consist of the Israeli aggression and its consequences in terms of the occupation of large tracts of Arab territories and threats to pan-Arab security. The paper says: Stressing its known and constant position, Syria has participated effectively in the peace process, for it found that the bases and objective of the peace process were in line with its position. The bases of the peace process are Resolutions 242 and 338, in addition to Resolution 425 on the liberation of southern Lebanon. The objective of the peace process is the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with those resolutions. Since there is no contradiction between its position and the bases of the peace process, Syria decided to take part positively in this process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: As asserted by President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria wants peace, but not at any price. The peace Syria wants is real peace. Achieving peace depends on the full restoration of the occupied territories and the removal of any trace, symbol, or (?part) of the occupation, be they in the form of early-warning ground stations or security arrangements not based on balance [tawazun] and equality [tasawi]. Syria's

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position on peace and the peace process and its bases and objective, as explained by leader al-Asad, reveals again the extent to which Syria adheres to a just, comprehensive peace and is eager to achieve peace for itself, others, and the world. It also reveals the extent to which Israel is evading peace and working to undermine every constructive effort to achieve it. Israel does not hesitate to work tirelessly to realize partial settlement arrangements, whose objective is to maintain the occupation and impose Israel's full control over the region in a manner that is not in line with the spirit of peace and its orientations.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says this contradiction between the clear, positive Syrian position and the negative Israeli stance indicates Israel's responsibility for the current deadlock in the peace process.

In an editorial, AL-BA'TH says the continued aggression against the Lebanese people proves the Israelis' desire to freeze and bury the peace process. The Israeli Government is looking for justifications to destroy the remaining vestiges of hope. However, again, the Israelis have fallen into miscalculations. They thought that Arab involvement in the peace process was a response to Israel's conditions and wishes. The paper discusses the Israeli Government's statement, which gives its bloodthirsty generals freedom of action. It says the Israeli Government has given them all forms of support after strongly inciting them to uproot the remaining possibilities of peace in southern Lebanon and perhaps in the entire region.

AL-BA'TH says: The rulers of Israel are deluded if they believe that force, killing, and destruction can force others to surrender. Have they forgotten what their invading troops faced? Have they forgotten how the Lebanese resistance, which they are threatening now, emerged from underground? Aggression is rejected, and so is silence about it. If the Israeli Government gives itself the right to block every international effort to achieve peace, the Lebanese people have the right to safeguard their homeland and children.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says Israel has repeatedly and unsuccessfully tried force, thinking that force might be an effective way to protect souls. However, the paper says, withdrawal from others' territory is the only way to protect the invading troops from a doomed destiny.

In its editorial TISHRIN comments on Israel's continued policy of escalation, intimidation, and threats to take all measures against Lebanon, as well as its attempts to acquit itself of the responsibility for any exacerbation of the situation. The paper says: Undoubtedly, this Israeli evasion of responsibility for exploding the situation in southern Lebanon reveals an aggressive strategy by Rabin, in which unfounded pretexts and justifications having nothing to do with the situation on the ground and developments are being used.

TISHRIN adds: Whenever it plans a large-scale aggression in the south, Israel advances pretexts and deceptive allegations. To achieve its strategic, hostile policies, Israel circumvents and twists facts. The paper says that when Israel reveals its aggressive face through the language of war and guns, it shows its true intentions—that it does not want peace and does not want Lebanon to enjoy security, calm, and stability. It only wants to impose its conditions and demands to maintain the occupation. It does not want to withdraw from the south, and rejects the implementation of Resolution 425, which most clearly provides for the evacuation of the Israeli occupation troops from southern Lebanon.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says that international laws, norms, and conventions support the right to resist the occupation, and consider resistance a legitimate and basic right. Since the enemy understands nothing but the language of force, Israel knows more than anyone else that resistance will continue in the south as long there are occupation troops. Peace and security cannot be achieved without the removal of the occupation. This means that the problem in the south lies in the occupation, and that Israel is responsible for what is taking place in the south.

Radio Commentary on 'Resistance,' Israeli Occupation

JN1810173795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Throughout history, the occupiers have been regarded as terrorists who should be denounced and resisted. However, at the end of the 20th century, the picture has been reversed. Now, resisting the occupation is regarded as terrorism, and occupation as a sacred right. History has taught nations that peace is the guarantor of security and stability. Only Israel has remained outside the international flock and outside the rationale of nations. It believes that force and occupation can justify its security allegations. It believes that as long as it has the power, it can justify its expansionist ambitions with such allegations.

The Lebanese people's resistance to the occupation and efforts to liberate their territory no matter what it takes or what the cost proves that peace and security can neither be achieved by force and occupation nor by aggression, killing, and destruction of villages. Rather,

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peace and security can be achieved by ending the occupation and acknowledging that others do love their land and have the right to sacrifice their lives for its sake. If Israel really wants peace and the safety of its troops in southern Lebanon, then the road before it is free and clear. This road has been marked and paved by international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions. What applies to the south applies to peace in the region. Peace in any region is an integrated whole, and cannot be divided. It cannot do Israel any good to hold others responsible for the death of its occupation troops or obstruction of peace.

We want a just and comprehensive peace. The peace we want must restore rights to their owners and ensure security and stability. Such a peace cannot be based on occupation, intimidation, and destruction. Rather, it must be based on international legitimacy, the UN Security Council resolutions, and the U.S. initiative, which is based on the land-for-peace formula. The world has admitted that peace is impossible in the Middle East without success on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Syria and Lebanon have made it clear that they are interested in the success of the peace process. They stressed that this success depends on commitment to the resolutions of the UN Security Council and international legitimacy. In other words, peace depends on the removal of the occupation and all its symbols and returning to the situation that existed before the occupation. Based on that, we urge the international community through its superpowers and institutions to be decisive and denounce and punish whoever opposes its will and peace and obstructs the peace process.

Peace is an international interest, and must be the focus of everyone's concern. Only a just and comprehensive peace can meet this international interest and can guarantee all parties' interests and rights.

U.S. Urged To 'Take Action' To Revive Peace Process

JN1910090495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary under the headline "The Credibility of Syria's Position," AL-THAWRAH says: Analyses, commentaries, and statements by renowned politicians and newsmen all commend Syria's position on the peace process. They also acknowledge that Syria's position is firm, balanced, and argues for fair and legitimate demands in perfect harmony with the resolutions, laws, and policies of international legitimacy.

The paper adds that analysts and commentators rule out Syria's taking any step that contradicts the Arab nation's higher interests. They also do not expect Syria to negotiate over its national and pan-Arab principles and objectives, especially since it is common knowledge that Syria would never adopt a lenient or tolerant stance toward such issues as land and rights. Syria would never relinquish an inch of the Golan.

The paper adds that in his recent comprehensive interview with the Cairo-based AL-AHRAM newspaper, President al-Asad explained many points. He was categorical in his definition of the concept of peace, and absolutely unequivocal in explaining the demands and conditions of this peace. The president unambiguously stated that Syria would never accept anything short of Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. He further said that any Israeli presence, whatever its form and name and whether it is under the pretext of monitoring or early warning, is out of the question, even if this would lead to the collapse of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria's strong and firm position, which is armed with UN resolutions and the principles of right and justice, prompted analysts and observers to acknowledge that peace is impossible without taking the Syrian view into consideration. This also prompted them to say that the region will enter an era of peace only through the Damascus gate.

The paper notes the statement made by Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state, in which he asserted that comprehensive peace in the Middle East would not be achieved without Syria and Lebanon. Pelletreau added that contacts are continuing with Syria to achieve this peace.

The paper concludes: If anything, the statements of observers and politicians constitute evidence of the soundness of Syria's policy and the credibility of its approach to lay the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This peace does not allow the relinquishment of any of the Arabs' legitimate rights, nor does it allow Israel to keep even an inch of the land of the Golan or southern Lebanon.

Under the headline "Against the Peace Process From One Election to Another," AL-BA'TH says: Thanks to the maneuvers and deception of the Israeli rulers, the peace process is now in an unenviable situation. Most hopes pinned on this process inside and outside the region have evaporated. People are now convinced that Israel does not want a real, just, and comprehensive peace, and that it wants to impose a settlement and dictate a solution in line with its own conditions. This solution is based on separate deals through which Israel gets everything in return for nothing.

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AL-BA'TH adds: Israel's general elections are in the offing. However, Rabin and his party have not achieved peace, and have not taken one serious step toward peace to achieve the objectives of the peace process. Actually, Rabin and his party did the opposite. Rabin acted against the peace process in Oslo, Wadi al-'Arabah, and Taba by embracing partial and separate solutions away from the peace talks that were going on in Washington. These talks were held on the principles of the peace process that were agreed upon between the United States and the parties to this process.

AL-BA'TH asks: Has Rabin offered anything to peace during his time in office other than an exposed assortment of political and propagandistic maneuvers and evasion of the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace? Rabin also undertook some failed attempts to achieve the objectives of aggressive and expansionist wars through negotiations.

The paper adds: We do not think that Rabin, his cabinet team, or those who had a role in the secret contacts and negotiations in partial and separate agreements can claim achievement of peace, security, and stability in the region. They are spinning in a vicious circle and hankering after the crumbs of a solution to major and minor issues without taking any step that would pave the way for a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH asserts that no impartial observer would doubt that the Rabin government is fully responsible for the miserable situation of the peace process in the region.

The paper concludes: In light of the above, the U.S. sponsor of the peace process must take action to awaken the peace process. Positive action can only be had by adhering to the foundations of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

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Afghanistan

Pakistan's Bhutto Said Aiming To Divide Muslims

LD1810190995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan said a the session of the publication and propaganda coordination commission: Mrs. Bhutto has no any other objective except to inflict a blow on the Muslims and to divide them.

At this session, which was held this afternoon under the chairmanship of the president himself, he added: The government of Pakistan has crushed the Malakan Muslims who have been demanding the enforcement of the Islamic Shariah. A number of Pakistan's military officers were recently arrested on charges of being Muslims. Wherever in Pakistan the voice of justice has been raised it has been silenced by force of weapons.

The esteemed president pointed out that Pakistan's rulers, by interfering in our country's internal affairs, have increasingly deteriorated relations between the two fraternal and Muslim countries, and this conspiracy must be exposed to the Muslim people of Pakistan.

The esteemed president added: The mass media must make those Taleban who unwittingly put themselves at the service of Mrs. Bhutto and defame to the religious ulema understand that they would not receive any reward except punishment both in this world and in the hereafter.

Esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani asked the mass media to take an active role in creating national unity vis-a-vis the aggressors; and to inform all the people and various groups to set aside their trivial internal issues and to form a united front against the aggressors who have jeopardized the independence, territorial integrity, and national unity of Afghans.

The esteemed president of Afghanistan assessed as positive the work of the publication and propaganda coordination commission and issued specific instructions for the improvement of work.

The mass media personnel of officials of the relevant ministries took part in the session.

Radio Reports on Pakistan's Expulsion of Envoys

LD1810170795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Continuing its hostility against the people of Afghanistan, the Benazir Bhutto government has expelled 17 Afghan diplomats and refugees from Pakistan. Reports reaching here from Islamabad say besides continued blatant military interference in the guise of Taleban in Afghanistan, the Benazir Bhutto government has asked six diplomats, cultural, and trade officials and 11 Afghan refugees to leave that country. Mohammad Nasim Faqiri, Afghan embassy's charge d'affaires, Sayd Habibshah Hamed, cultural attache, Mohammad Faruq Chakari, assistant cultural attache, Mohammad Daod Kamran, second secretary in the Karachi consulate, Abdol Qader Bakhtari, trade attache in Karachi, and Habibollah Torab, assistant counselor, are among those expelled.

Some time ago Pakistan expelled 14 Afghan diplomats including Masud Khalili, the special envoy of the president of Afghanistan. The expulsion of diplomats and the prosecution of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan are the clear manifestations of the Benazir Bhutto government's hostility against the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Radio Reports on Renewed Fighting in Kabul

LD1810114295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1040 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports received from Afghanistan state that after two days of relative calm, fierce fighting has broken out in Kabul this morning between government and Taleban forces using heavy weaponry.

Contradictory reports are also being received on the situation in Herat. Informed BAKHTAR sources, speaking to the Central News Unit correspondent in Kabul, emphasized that the Taleban control some of the cities and some of the link routes in Herat Province but that many of the cities and governorships of that province have fallen into the hands of government forces.

Government Repels 'Benazir's Taleban'

LD1810164395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An offensive by Benazir's Taleban was repulsed this morning. A Ministry of Defense source told BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that this morning Benazir Bhutto's militia launched an attack against the mojahedin positions in the south of Kabul. In the course of neutralizing this attack eight Taleban were killed and dozens of others wounded. One member of the Taleban group was taken prisoner. The dead bodies of a number of them are lying near the mojahedin positions. Fazl, a commander of the southern defense line, told a BAKHTAR correspondent that during the operation many losses were inflicted on the militia and that their attack was neutralized. He said:

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the defenders of the southern defense line are ready to repulse and neutralize any attack.

Helicopter of 'Bhutto's Taleban' Said Shot Down

LD1810191895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A helicopter belonging to the Benazir Bhutto's Taleban was shot down in Herat.

Reports say that this helicopter which had been attacking the mojahedin's positions around the city has been shot down by the mojahedin.

In confirming the report on shooting down the helicopter, Radio Mashhad last night said that fierce fighting was going on around the city and that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban have no capability to confront it.

Government Admits Move Against Taleban Repulsed

BK1910084695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Oct 19 (AFP) — Afghan government forces acknowledged Thursday [19 October] that an offensive against the Taleban militia south of Kabul had failed.

The Afghan capital was quiet Thursday, apart from the odd burst of artillery fire, after the offensive.

A government spokesman admitted that forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani had fallen back to earlier positions on the front line south of Kabul, having made no significant gains.

Independent witnesses said the Khairabad hills, which overlook southern Kabul, were still in the hands of the Taleban, who have sworn to capture the Afghan capital.

But life in the city itself was relatively normal. The roads were full of people and business continued as usual.

On Wednesday, pro-Rabbani officials claimed to have made gains into territory held by the Taleban, who control southern Afghanistan and are dug in to the south of the capital. But the government side admitted Thursday these gains had been short-lived.

It has also acknowledged that the central town of Bamyan, the hub of Afghanistan's Shi'ite movement, has fallen into the hands of Karim Khalili's Hezb-e Wahdat, a rival faction.

A presidential spokesman said forces loyal to Rabbani were still holding the Shash Pol hills overlooking Bamyan, and said reinforcements had been sent.

The Rabbani regime has lost much territory in recent few weeks, falling back from Herat. Two strategic points to the south of Kabul were taken by the Taleban last week and Bamyan fell on Sunday.

But presidential forces remain in control of Kabul. The country has been gripped by an intractable civil war since the fall of a communist Soviet forces pulled out in 1989.

Taleban Said Persecuting Shiites in Nimruz, Farah

LD1810165095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shiites residing in Nimruz and Farah provinces in Afghanistan continue to leave the provinces as a result of Taleban persecution. Reports reaching here from Farah and Nimruz say the Taleban have forced 300 Shiites to leave the provinces. This has led to the Shiites selling their houses and property at lower prices. A Taleban commander started a house-to-house search for Shiites in Zaranj in order to round them up and send them to Qandahar. An Afghan source said that a Taleban commander detained a large number of young and old people in Farah. The source added that the Taleban took 3 to 10 million afghanis from their families in exchange for their release. The reports say that local people demonstrated in protest at this act of the Taleban. It is also reported that the Taleban have been searching for Shiites and their children in Nimruz over the past two days, and have detained them and confiscated their property.

Taleban Reportedly Sends Reinforcements to Nimruz

LD1910061095 Tehran IRNA in English 0541 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zabol, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., Oct. 18, IRNA — According to Afghan sources, Taleban commanders dispatched 800 reinforcement forces to the Nimruz Province on Tuesday [17 October].

The sources added that the forces have been transferred from Delaram region to Zaranj, center of Nimruz Province.

During the past few days, the opposition forces led by the former governor of Nimruz, Karim Khan Barahuii [name as received], have attacked Taleban positions in the said province.

Ten Taleban forces are believed to have been wounded in the attacks, supported by some local forces.

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Government Forces Capture District in Balkh

LD1810165795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Balkh province mojahedin have captured the Balkhab district. Mojahedin in Mazar-e Sharif captured the district yesterday and thereby cut off the road between Balkh and Bamian provinces. This road was the only supply route from north to Bamian. With the closure of the route the possibility of help with the opponents of the government in Bamian have been eliminated.

Bangladesh

Opposition Urged To Call Off Strike, Hold Talks

BK1910005095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister for Works Rafiqul Islam Mian has again appealed to leaders of opposition parties to respond to a proposal presented by Prime Minister Khaleda for a peaceful solution to the current political stalemate, and to come forward for an open dialogue. Talking to the BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA in Dhaka today, Mr. Rafiqul Islam said that differences of opinion between the government and the opposition leaders on the issue of holding the next elections have narrowed. He expressed confidence that if the two leaders can sit together then it will be possible to peacefully resolve the problem in the greater interest of the country. When questioned about the basis behind his confidence in a peaceful settlement, Mr. Rafiqul Islam referred to initiatives taken by intellectuals and different groups of people and assurances given by them in this regard. He urged opposition leaders to immediately call off their strike program after taking into consideration the untold sufferings of the people and the severe damage being caused to the national economy.

The third day of the 96-hour strike called by the opposition parties passed peacefully today. Sources close to police headquarters said there were no reports of any major untoward incident from anywhere in the country throughout the day. In Dhaka, shops, commercial establishments, and educational institutions were closed. In Rajshahi, no other transport except rikshas plied on the streets. Civil Aviation sources said that of the 18 scheduled international flights, 14 operated on schedule. Of the 11 scheduled domestic flights, six flights were cancelled. Sources close to the Sadarghat terminal said 60 percent of the launches left Dhaka and a similar number of launches arrived in Dhaka, but there were few passengers. Railway sources said all trains operated on schedule from Kamalapur Station carrying very few passengers, but no trains arrived at this station.

AFP Reports on Dhaka Bomb, Strike

BK1910095795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 19 Oct 95

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Oct 19 (AFP) — Bombs exploded across Dhaka and at least 20 police and strikers were injured in clashes Thursday [19 October] as an anti-government general strike in Bangladesh came to a tense finale.

The bombs went off in several parts of the capital and four police, injured when picketers hurled bombs at them in the Maghbazar district, were on the latest casualty list, witnesses said.

Sixteen strikers were injured during clashes at the rally in Maghbazar.

Security was tightened further as mounting tension threatened to set off more violence. Police and paramilitary forces kept a close watch on the many opposition marches through Dhaka's otherwise empty streets.

Some 200 broom-wielding women supporters of the opposition Awami league marched through the Muhammadpur area, witnesses said.

The four-day general strike, which finishes on Friday at dawn, is the longest ever called in Bangladesh. Three people have been killed, 300 injured and 145 arrested since it started on Monday.

The Awami League and other opposition parties started a campaign 18 months ago to force Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to resign and stage elections under a neutral government.

Fearing growing violence, a group of Dhaka residents said in a statement they would form a four-kilometer (2.5 mile) long human chain in the capital.

They said that daily life had been endangered and that terrorism was starting to take over.

On Wednesday, clashes in Dhaka and other towns and districts left 87 injured, the government-owned Dainik Bangla daily reported.

Ten people were injured in clashes between Awami League supporters and those of ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Pary (BNP) in the eastern town Narsingdi. Three houses were destroyed.

A spokesman for opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, said she is scheduled to meet an "eminent

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citizens' contact group, at the weekend. The group, which has already met Zia twice, is trying to bring the two women leaders to the negotiating table.

Ashraf Hossain, BNP's acting general secretary, told the Daily Star newspaper that the ruling party was ready to make concessions "as much as possible within the ambit of the constitution to avoid anarchy."

Zia has already offered to stand down 30 days ahead of elections, scheduled for early 1996. Hossain said Wajed might get further concessions in direct talks.

Zia has otherwise rejected the opposition demands as "unconstitutional."

The strike has held all over the country since it began and severely disrupted road and rail links.

School, shops, and businesses have remained shut, but some street vendors cautiously set up shops. State-owned banks were manned by skeleton staff, but there were no transactions.

Officials in the southeastern port of Chittagong said 46 ships and 12,000 containers were waiting to be cleared.

The Awami League, the JP [Jatiya Party] of jailed ex-president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party resigned from parliament in December to push their demand.

New State Minister Takes Oath of Office

BK1910004995 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shahjahan Seraj, MP, took an oath of office as state minister. President Abdur Rahman Biswas administerd the oath of office at a simple ceremony held at the President House in Dhaka tonight. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also attended the function.

India

U.S. Attitude Toward Nation, Pakistan Viewed

BK0910163895 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 6 Oct 95 p 6

[Article by Dinanath Misra: "The Only Answer to the U.S. Inequity is the Deployment of 'Prithvi'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It is hypocrisy on the part of the United States that it keeps on giving the latest war weapons to Pakistan while simultaneously claiming friendship with India. Such a hoax cannot be maintained for long. Abiding by the Pressler Law, the United States banned military aid to Pakistan after receiving reports of Pakistan's attempt to make nuclear weapons. On the 21st of September 1995 the U.S. Senate passed the Modification Proposal introduced by Senator Hank Brown that cleared the way for the United States to supply weapons to Pakistan worth about Rs.1300 crore (about $370 million). Now Pakistan will be receiving three P-3 Orion reconnaissance air crafts, 360 of the latest missiles, 24 S-198 Howitzers and 30 helicopters capable of destroying enemy tanks in the dark night with their missiles. Pakistan was also hoping to receive 28 F-16 planes for which it had already made advance payment, but the Pressler Law prevents it from receiving the planes. Now the plan is to return the money Pakistan already paid by selling these planes to a third party and giving Pakistan the money. This way Pakistan will be getting around 2500 crore rupees, which it is likely to use to buy 24 Mirage-2000 planes from France. These Mirage-2000 planes are the latest multipurpose fighter aircraft. When the United States began its program of arming Pakistan with the latest weapons about 50 years ago, U.S. President Eisenhower assured the Indian Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, that these U.S. weapons would not be used against India at any time, whereby Pt. Nehru sarcastically remarked that he was not aware of any weapons that could be used only in one direction or against only one particular enemy. The Indian Prime Minister's remark was in response to the U.S. President's indirect hint that these weapons could possibly be only used against communist countries, like the Soviet Union or China. Pt Nehru very rightly questioned how could the weapons be used against a particular belief and how could they have the acumen to attack one party and spare others. Pt Nehru's suspicion was proven correct and everyone knows how these weapons were freely used against India in the armed confrontations with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971.

All the pleas offered by Hank Brown while presenting his Modification Proposal to the Pressler Law ought to be judged against the backdrop of pleas given at the time of promulgation of the Pressler Amendment. These pleas include the following: That it is unfair to receive payment and not deliver the goods; and that Pakistan is the sole trusted ally of the United States among the Muslim countries and hence it is in the interest of the United States to protect its ally from any possible danger. Compare these pleas with those given at the time of the Pressler Amendment, that giving weapons to Pakistan — that was trying to make nuclear weapons — was going against U.S. policy of keeping nuclear proliferation in check. Hence banning the weapons' supply to Pakistan was justified. But has there been a change in Pakistan's attempt to become a nuclear power? The whole world knows that Pakistan now has many nuclear weapons. Pakistan has even admitted it and the United States is well aware of it. Still Brown's

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proposal passed, which is in direct contradiction to the provisions of the Pressler Law.

Today the sole target of Pakistan's hostility is India. Thus these weapons are being given to Pakistan solely for use against India. Let us also consider the U.S. estimation of India's security arrangements. The U.S. Assistant Secretary revealed before a U.S. Congressional Committee that despite India being four times the size of Pakistan, with a population eight times that of Pakistan, in an armed confrontation India could not defeat Pakistan decisively because the Pakistani Army's weapons are superior and they have had better training. Pakistan is more anxious to score a victory over India than India is to beat Pakistan. Despite these facts, in order to fortify Pakistan's military strength even more, the United States has decided to deliver the first consignment of the resumed military aid to Pakistan.

Why is the United States acting in such an unreasonable manner? What is its concept of the positions of India and Pakistan in South Asian affairs? For the United States India is a market, while Pakistan is a trusted ally. In order to decipher U.S. intentions it is necessary to understand the extent to which Pakistan placed itself in the confrontations at the Afghan border to defeat the designs of the Soviet Union. The defeat at the Afghan front quickly sagged Soviet morale. The United States does not consider Pakistan's contribution to have been any less in causing the decisive defeat of communism and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union. It was like the last straw to break the proverbial camel's back. These tidings clearly indicate that Pakistan is an unofficial check-post of the U.S. supremacy in the South Asia region, while India is only a big market, and that only in a half- sense, because India does not have that ready market for U.S. goods such as the ones in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These markets in the Middle East link the oil interests of the United States, allowing the United States to protect them, such as during the Gulf War against Iraq.

To decipher the U.S. intention it would be useful to study passages from the article written by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which was published in the important official U.S. journal called FOREIGN POLICY in the Spring of this year. [passage omitted]

We must analyze the proposal by Hank Brown against the back-drop of this U.S. thinking. Notwithstanding the denial of the U.S. Secretary of State that the United States is the policeman of the world, he is just trying to hide the intention under a wordy veil. The rest of the assertions in his article smack of the arrogance of the United States being dictator of the world. Mr. Christopher clearly knows that if the United States fails to help its friends and allies in their hour of need, then various institutions and allies will not be available to the United States either. These thoughts reflect the basic ground manifested in Hank Brown's proposal for modification in the Pressler Law. Meanwhile the real intention of Pakistan, now equipped with the latest U.S. war weapons is to cause the collapse of India as a nation. The terrorist activities conducted by its intelligence agency, the I.S.I, in the North Eastern States, Punjab and Kashmir, loudly proclaim its true intentions. The Chairman of Pakistani National Assembly, during his latest visit to India, clearly predicted in New Delhi that the Indians would soon break into at least 50 fragments. These were not only the apparent 'good wishes' of Pakistan nor its wishful thinking. It is a well thought-out plan that Pakistan wanted to implement in a phased manner. What was India's reaction to Pakistan's wish? In an interview with the TIMES, the Indian prime minister opined that this U.S. decision — to resume military aid to Pakistan would definitely escalate the arms' race in South Asia. As a matter of fact, for last four years India has been continuously bowing before the coercive stance and threats of the U.S. India has indigenously developed its 'Prithvi' missile, which has 300 kms strike range. It is now ready to be handed over to the Indian Army, but because of U.S. pressure the Indian Government has refrained from handing it over to the Indian Army. Now the technology relating to the Agni missile is also fully developed, which reflects the fusion of the Indian scientists' talent. It is capable of hitting any target within 1500 kms. But again, owing to U.S. pressure we have not yet even started its regular production. Even on the Kashmir issue the United States has exerted pressure on the Indian Government at every step and it continued to bow before it.

After the Brown Proposal was passed by the U.S. Senate, the spokesperson of the Indian External Affairs Ministry was asked repeatedly about the fate of the 'Prithvi' and Agni missiles. Would they be taken to the next phase of development? Would they be handed over to the Indian Army? But the spokesperson evaded all questions tactfully. Until about two-and-half years ago India was hopeful that the United States would declare Pakistan to be a terrorist state. But in April of this year when Pakistan's prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, visited the United States she met with President Clinton who assured her that a way would be found to resume weapons supply to Pakistan, even if it meant ignoring the Pressler Law, by the end of this year. And so he did. Pakistan registered its decisive victory and India suffered a major diplomatic defeat. However, our Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Siddharth Shankar Ray has a different opinion. He still believes that many formalities need to be completed before the

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U.S. decision becomes a reality. In his optimism he has completely forgotten about Bill Clinton's promise to Benazir Bhutto. Now in direct contrast to India, look at China. When U.S. President Clinton happened to meet the Dalai Lama in Washington, China gave President Clinton a stern warning to desist from such activities. The Chinese stance has always been quite aggressive towards the United States. That is why the United States always takes great caution when dealing with China. But it hardly requires any such precaution in dealing with India. It is chiefly because of the weakness of the Indian leadership, a leadership devoid of any confidence that cannot be expected to fair any better.

There is no doubt that during the Cold War India was leaning toward the Soviet Union. It was necessitated, perhaps, by circumstances at the time. The fact that the Soviet Union used its veto power in the Security Council on the Kashmir issue and gave moral support to India during its 1971 war with Pakistan, bear testimony to support this assessment. At the end of the Cold War, U.S. policy towards Pakistan should have undergone a decisive change. But nothing of the sort transpired. Now it is claimed that the U.S. friendship with Pakistan was not necessitated by U.S. design to check the growth of communism in the region. The real reason, however is this that the United States is seriously worried about India becoming a major power — for it can ill-afford a third major Asian power, besides China and Japan. Since India has all the potential to be one, the United States is worried. If viewed impartially there appears to be great similarities between the policies of Pakistan and the United States towards India, despite one being a Muslim country and the other being a Western block country. Hence both of these countries need to be tackled with a firm resolve and a resolute stance by the Indian Government. The Maharashtra government by scrapping the Rs9000 crore Dabhol Project has shown the way. When this project was cancelled, not the Enron Power Corporation — the multinational U.S. Company — but the U.S. Government itself conveyed a tacit warning that this scrapping of the deal might entail halting all U.S. investment in India's power sector. Not only this, but the governments of Britain and France sided with the U.S. Government. But, undaunted, the Maharashtra government did not budge from its stand and despite these warnings scrapped the Enron deal. Why can't the Indian Central Government adopt a similar stance in dealing with the United States? Can it not match even the guts of its own State Government? China, by maintaining a similar stance keeps U.S. bluster in check. Considering all these factors the Indian Government should give a befitting answer to the United States — accept Hank Brown's proposal by handing over the 'Prithvi' missile to the Indian Army for its suitable deployment. No government worth its name can afford to be callous about safeguarding the security of its own country.

Article Urges Government To Face 'American Bully'

BK1410113395 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 12 Oct 95 p 8

[Article by Nikhil Chakravartty]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Preoccupation with domestic problems naturally edge out foreign policy issues from public scrutiny. And nobody will deny we have internal issues in plenty to bother about. The possible alignments and realignments of parties as a prelude to the preparations of the general election have become the subject of intense discussions both in the pubic and within major political parties.

In a different context, the poverty-alleviation programme which the Central Government has been announced with almost break-neck speed are generally taken by the public in general as eve-of- election goodies to win over the votes of the common people who are directly hit by the effects of the economic reforms, as the Government is at pains to dispel the growing public conviction that these reforms while modernising the economy are meant, primarily to enrich the rich and neglect the disadvantaged sections in society.

In this abnormal situation it is but natural that foreign policy should be relegated to a back seat. The Prime Minister has been making a number of trips abroad despite his heavy inventory of work—at home for sorting out differences among Ministers to working out tactics to ward off the attacks by powerful factions within his own party. In a few days, he is leaving for an important summit of the Nonaligned Movement to be held in Latin America, and yet one has not come across any wide ranging discussions of the issues confronting the developing countries in the face of the G-7 drive towards protectionism, open and devious, to fleece the Third World.

Given this unusual background, it is worth noting that one single action of the U.S. Administration has been widely commented upon, in fact severely criticised by all sanctions of the Indian public. After months of hi-fi euphoria about the upturn in Indo-U.S. relations, there has resurfaced all the time-tested misgivings about the U.S. policy in this part of the world, particularly towards the subcontinent. During the last four years, since the Governments uncritical compliance with the World Bank-detected structural adjustments programme, and extra-ordinary razzmatazz was mounted about the benefits of going American in every field from economic to

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media. The rationale behind this unprecedented wave, was that with the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, there being only one superpower in the world, India must not only make up with it but try to convince it that more than any other country in the region—particularly more than Pakistan—India is worth cultivating and the benefits which Washington was showering on Pakistan should now be diverted to our country.

Grave Miscalculation

Since our ruling establishment and its lackeys could convince themselves that the Americans are bound to respond to our high- powered fawning, one could notice a certain distinct change in our assessment of the U.S. attitude towards Kashmir. The ruling establishment began to nurture the illusion that with Washington's help we could put Pakistan in the wrong over Kashmir. So much so that the U.S. Ambassador in New Delhi virtually emerged as the principal adviser of the government of India over Kashmir. Not only has be been permitted to hold extensive meetings with political leaders, including militants, but has been conducting himself as if he was preparing the ground for the elections in Kashmir which the Government is committed to hold in the near future. For the first time, a foreign Ambassador has been found to be openly dabbling in one of the most formidable problems facing the statesmanship of this country—that is, Kashmir, impinging on the self-respect of the country.

The basic miscalculation of New Delhi on this score flowed from a misreading of the tenets of U.S. foreign policy particularly for this part of the world. It was almost taken for granted that with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Pakistan's importance for the U.S. foreign policy strategy would go down, and India with its burgeoning market would be preferred to than the unstable Pakistan. What has been forgotten in this calculation is that the Pentagon's interest and ties with Pakistan's military junta, specifically the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence], has never been weakened, rather, the U.S. policy makers have assigned for Pakistan a distinct role as the strategic outpost that would continue to be a convenient jumping off ground in the even of any intervention into Central Asian Region. Secondly, Pakistan has to function as a measure base for any intervention in the Persian Gulf, particularly against Iran. It is not without significance that southern part of the war-torn Afghanistan today under the control of Taleban, the military adventurist banned financed and earned by Pakistan, obviously with supplied provided by the Pentagon.

Keep Up Nation's Morale

Under the circumstances, it was naive on the part of the ruling establishment in New Delhi to expect that the Pressler Amendment would not be modified by the Clinton administration to make room for the resumption of military assistant of Pakistan. At this point, this is being presented as just a one time arms package and nothing more. It would be far more honest to look upon this initiation by the Senator Hank Brown as the thin end of the wedge. Once the ban imposed by the Pressler Amendment is removed, there need be no surprise if more such packages follow in the near future.

The argument that is being trotted out to explain this open resumption of arms supply to Pakistan has also a novelty of its own. In the past, the U.S. plea for arms supply to Pakistan was mainly that by generously providing conventional weapons, it would be possible to persuade Pakistan not to go in for the production of nuclear weapons. This time, the argument is reversed and it is being said that since India's nuclear capability is ahead of Pakis? is necessary to provide sophisticated arm's to Pakistan.

Besides, it is being whispered in the Congressional circles that India may suddenly mount a military offensive against Pakistan since the Indian leadership may desperately try to prop up its sagging election prospects by a sudden war against Pakistan: therefore, it is necessary Pakistan with a new arms package.

And our government will have to take some immediate measures to keep up the nation's morale. Obviously, the production and placement of the Agni missile has to proceed unhindered, while the Prithvi project resumed, In this context, it is necessary that our Defence production efforts are geared in a manner that would help to reinforce the country's morale. While our Defence Science Chief, Dr Abdul Kalam has come to represent the symbol of indigenous defence particularly through the missile technology, one is disturbed at the report that a well-known figure, long known for his pro-U.S. bias, has returned after a long stint abroad and the U.S. is trying to muscle him in as the Scientific Adviser to the Government. Such an appointment, however well meant, would be a definite setback for the public's much needed confidence in the government's capacity and willingness to stand up to the American bully.

Radio Reports on Russian Computer Goods Proposal

BK1210132295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has proposed import of computer and high-tech items from India as part

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of rupee debt repayment. A list of items given by Moscow is now under consideration of New Delhi. This was disclosed by the Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Yuriy Yarov, and the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, in New Delhi today. They were addressing a joint press conference at the end of the four-day Indo-Russian Joint Commission meeting. Terming the report that Moscow is seeking rupee debt repayment in hard currency as irrelevant, Mr. Yarov said several measures have been taken to tackle the issue. A portion of the rupee debt repayment of 30,000 crore rupees will be used in investments in joint ventures in both countries and also for buying medicines for Chernobyl nuclear accident victims, he added. During the discussions, both sides agreed to expand their bilateral trade and economic cooperation substantially. Mr. Yarov and Mr. Mukherjee expressed confidence that the bilateral trade will surpass the target of 5,000 crore rupees this year. The Russian deputy prime minister made it clear that Moscow will not conclude any agreement with Pakistan which goes against the interest of India.

Article Notes 'Stronger' Bilateral Russian Ties

BK1410113695 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 12 Oct 95 p 10

[Article by Jyoti Malhotra]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Russia are embarking on a new relationship that has all the smells and trappings of its old affair with the Soviet Union: as both countries struggle to emerge s major players in a post-Cold War world, bilateral political, economic and military ties are stronger than they have ever been in the last three years.

Despite the fast pace of liberalisation in both countries—and its associated vulgar excesses—India and Russia are independently seen to be arriving at the conclusion that unless they assert themselves in the new global geo political alignments, they will be left out in the cold.

"Russia and India are governed by similar interests," says a senior official in the ministry of external affairs, adding, "We don't want to be Cold War-type allies because there is no Cold War, but we must note that Russians supporting India's efforts internationally, like on Kashmir, as well as on the domestic; front, for example in defence cooperation."

Whether it is Kashmir, nuclear disarmament or support for a seat in the Security Council, Russia is becoming a major ally. Moscow recently with drew from an attempted P-8 initiative (the P-8 is the political arm of the G-7, of which Russia is not yet a full member) made by Canada in her capacity as chairman of the G-7, that India must adhere to nuclear and missile-related treaties. Russia has noted that human rights violations in Kashmir have occurred on all sides and that the Kashmir dispute should be resolved according to the Shimla accord.

Further, while the U.S. openly favours only Germany and Japan for a permanent seat in an expanded Security Council, and China wants a status quo, Russia is the only permanent member of this body that supports India's candidature. Defence analysts also point out that Russia has renewed its commitment to India on military spares and other hardware, important in the light of the burgeoning relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan. And that while the nuclear suppliers group, including Russia, has refused to allow the outflow of nuclear technology, equipment or material to non-NPT signatories like India, Moscow has agreed to abide by its 1988 offer of building two nuclear power reactors in Kodamkulam, Tamil Nadu.

The coincidence of interests that manifests itself across the board, interestingly, is being pushed on both sides at the highest level in Moscow, foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev (Gorbachev has called his ministry "a branch of the U.S. State department") has never hesitated to show his distaste or his indifference for India. Despite him, the case for closer ties has been prepared by lower officials in the Russian foreign office, and then left to the head of government, prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, to embellish the renewed association with his stamp of authority.

In India, too, in the corridors of the ministries of external affairs, defence and affairs, there is optimism—and relief—that the bilateral relationship has finally turned the corner from the low that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union: those were the heady days when the West bad embraced Russia—and India was unceremoniously relegated into the background, in the same category as, perhaps, Burkina Faso and Benin. When Moscow was forced by the U.S. in mid-1993 to cancel a perfectly valid space contract with New Delhi, the relationship hit rock-bottom.

Then, in June 1994, came the path breaking "Moscow Declaration" between prime minister Narasimha Rao and Russian president Boris Yeltsin, in Moscow—a document declaring the right of multiethnic states to exist without being threatened by cross border terrorism. The declaration further stated that Russia recognised as inviolable the Constitution of India. Clearly, Moscow had recognised that Pakistan was waging a proxy war in Kashmir and Punjab, and that, Kashmir was an integral part of India.

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Pakistani diplomats in Moscow at the time were clearly shaken by Russia's unequivocal stand on Kashmir, especially since they had been dangling the carrot of arms purchases at Russia's cash-strapped defence factories. But Russian policy-makers had clearly begun to look at the bigger picture—and saw that every time there was a clash of commercial or political interest with the West, Russia was being asked to back down.

It had happened with the space contract with India; it was now beginning to happen in Central Asia—part of Russia's "near abroad," where Moscow had publicly spoken in favour of a hands-on policy, while the U.S. had repeatedly stated that these independent nations should shake off their old Soviet influence; in the Balkans, where all of Russia watched as punitive sanctions were selectively applied against its traditional Orthodox Serb allies, while Germany's protege, Croatia, literally got away with murder; in the war that broke out in the Russian republic of Chechnya, where Moscow sent in the troops to control the state from breaking away and was roundly criticised for the, brutality it unleashed in the region.

As the world crashed around Russia, somewhere the kernel of a new relationship with India was quietly sown. One whole year before, Mr Yeltsin had come to Delhi and signed an agreement where India would repay her old debt to the Soviet Union -in full, in rupees and over a definite time schedule (Rs 30,000 crore over 12 years). Prime Minister's Rao visit in June 1994 was followed a month later by the visit of air chief S.K. Kaul. During Mr Rao's visit, it was announced that the supply of military spares had been resumed and that Moscow had promised it would fulfil every commitment on that front.

During Mr Kaul's visit, the air was rife with speculation that big hardware purchases by India were round the comer—he even flew an SU-30 long-range reconnaissance; fighter aircraft. Last month, when defence secretary K.A. Nambiar led a high powered delegation to Moscow, on top of the wish list was not only a request for 30 SU-30s but also an aircraft carrier, the 'Admiral Gorshkov', to replace the aging INS Vikrant of 1960s vintage.

Defence sources are tightlipped about the actual quantum of arms purchases from Russia, only admitting that "things are going very well, like never before," adding the only difference between India's old relationship with the Soviet Union was that in case of a war, the Soviet Union promised to help out India. That clause is missing in the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed with Russia when Mr Yeltsin came to Delhi in 1993. Apart from that, India is getting top-of the line military hardware with India. Its almost like the good old days."

One of the key figures to have pushed the relationship has been External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who has visited Moscow several times in the last year, in his capacity as commerce minister, co-chairman of the Indo-Russian joint commission and now as foreign minister. Diplomats say that Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Yarov and Mr Mukherjee get along famously and that during a meeting with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin in August, Mr Mukherjee was greeted like an old friend .

In Delhi, at the Joint Commission meeting this week, Mr Mukherjee singled out Mr Yarov for ironing out problems and reiterated that the relationship was basically one of "trust and confidence," that both countries had known each other for about 50 years and there was immense scope for growth. On his part, Mr Yarov pronounced that he was "fully satisfied" with the way things were going.

Indian officials are upbeat that bilateral trade has gone up by 93 per cent in the first four months of this year, but point out that the dollar component of the trade remains at a lowly 20 per cent. The only solution, they argue, is for Indian industry on focus on long term investments in Russia, rather than worry about fast-buck profits. "The debt repayment route will dry up after 12 years, where will Indian businessmen go after that?" one official asked.

The Indian Government is now pushing for the up gradation of the Novorossisk port on the Black Sea in Russia, which is expected to become the gateway into the rest of the country of the CIS. The cost of the project, about $250 million, is likely to be taken from the debt fund. Also, some of the debt may be used by the Russians in India, for example in the modernisation of the steel plants in Bokaro and Bhilai, setting up a chemical plant in Rajasthan and building an electric plant as part of the Tehri project.

"The Russian economy has proven its innate strength and resilience," Mr Mukherjee noted, "the transformation is taking place very fast and for a while the situation was not very conducive to us. But we must not lose heart, we should be able to overcome these problems."

To hear him say it, it might be the beginning of a brand new relationship.

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Extradition of Sri Lankan LTTE Leader Requested

BK1110160695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has reiterated to Sri Lanka that it should proceed with India's request for the extradition of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader Prabhakaran in connection with the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. This was conveyed to the Sri Lankan foreign minister by the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, at their recent meeting in New York.

Official Concerned Over Sri Lankan LTTE Activities

BK1610163595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union home secretary has expressed concern at the increasing LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] activities in Tamil Nadu. In an interview to Doordarshan [television] in Madras today, Mr. Padmanabhaiah said that the time has come for the state government to take stern action against the LTTE supporters and curb their activities. The home secretary warned that these activities should not become an internal security problem in the long run. Earlier, Mr. Padmanabhaiah visited Punamali subjail, housing 26 of the accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. He also held discussions with senior state government officials, including the chief secretary.

Kashmir Governor Affirms Commitment to Political Process

BK1410083395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor has appealed to political parties to come forward and start the political process in the state. General Krishna Rao was addressing a meeting of the newly constituted Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council in Leh today. He said that government is committed to restoring democracy through free and fair elections. The Leh council is a first step toward this. He called upon the militants to give up the gun culture and join the election fray to test their real support among the people.

The center has decided to move 180,000 tons of wheat and rice stored in the central pool in Punjab and Haryana to Jammu and Kashmir by the 15th of December this year. This was stated by the union food minister, Mr. Ajit Singh, at a press conference in Chandigarh today. He said apart from meeting the requirements of food grains in the valley, this will release the badly needed storage capacity in Punjab and Haryana.

Security Forces Kill 14 'Militants' in Kashmir

BK1810132695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir valley, 14 militants were killed and 36 arrested by the security forces in the last 24 hours. An official spokesman said a large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered. Twenty six youths were arrested in the northern sector of the valley. Three persons taking them across the border for arms training were also apprehended.

Political Parties View Fall of UP Government

BK1910005495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has demanded elections to the Uttar Pradesh [UP] assembly along with the coming Lok Sabha elections. He said his party was forced to withdraw support to the Mayawati government because of what he called its misdeeds and large-scale corruption. Mr. Advani was talking to newspersons in Gwalior.

The Congress-I says the political developments in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh show that the Congress-I alone can provide a stable government. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the fall of the Mayawati government in Uttar Pradesh is the result of unprincipled and opportunistic alliances. He said the UP episode has exposed the bankruptcy of the BJP leadership.

The Janata Dal and the Samajwadi Party are making a fresh assessment of the political situation in Uttar Pradesh following the fall of the Mayawati government. The senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Biju Patnaik, and the Samajwadi Party leader, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, had a meeting in New Delhi last night to take stock of the situation.

Air Chief Reviews 'Indigenously Produced' Aircraft

BK0810162995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief of air staff, Air Marshal S.K. Kaul, has called for greater alertness in the face of increasing external and internal security threats to the nation. Addressing Air Force personnel on the 63d anniversary of the founding of Indian Air Force in New Delhi today, he said modernization is being carried

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out in equipment, procedures, and training to meet the new challenges.

Earlier, the air chief gave away 47 president's medals for bravery and distinguished service to Air Force personnel in an investiture ceremony. The highlight of the ceremony was the fly- past by four waves of Jaguars and MiG-27's. A formation of transport aircraft, including giant IL-76, also flew past. The air chief also reviewed a display of vintage pre-World War-II fighters and the first indigenously produced fighter planes in the country.

Iran

U.S. Rally Said Protest Against 'Ruling System'

LD1810163195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said that the huge march and demonstration by U.S. blacks was a protest against the ruling system in the United States and against racial discrimination and the violation of human rights in that country. He explained: The cry of: God is Great, and: There is no God but God, voiced by more than one million people has disgraced the United States and its hegemonistic system.

Nateq-Nuri added: If today, people who have been humiliated and deprived for years from their rights because of the color of their skin, pour into the streets in this way, crying: God is Great, this because our eminent imam's [Khomeyni] revolution has been exported. The chief of the legislature, who was speaking at today's open session of the Majles, noted that more than one million people came out into the streets — in a country which claims to defend human rights and considers itself as the defender of the whole world, oppressively interfering everywhere on the pretext of defending human rights — and protested against blasphemy, hegemony, and the United States' arrogant government.

According to our correspondent, at the end of Nateq-Nuri's remarks, deputies present at the Majles open session shouted: Death to America — thus supporting the remarks made by the Speaker of the Majles.

Dailies View Background to U.S. Protest

LD1810134695 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 18 (IRNA) — Two English-language morning dailies today commented on the demonstration held by Afro-Americans in the capital of the United States on Monday [16 October] to criticize injustice and discrimination in that country.

The daily TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial on Monday wrote, "nearly one million Afro-Americans gathered under the banner of Islam and held a demonstration in Washington, D.C. on Monday to air their grievances and voice their protest against social and economic injustice and racial discrimination and prejudice against Afro- Americans in the United States, the March was headed by Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the nationalist religious movement called the 'Nation of Islam.'"

The demonstration was unprecedented in U.S. history and the largest ever. In 1963 the late Martin Luther King, Jr. organized a demonstration with similiar objectives gathering some 250,000 people.

The paper said, "what was written on the placards of the demonstrators would help us acquire a better understanding into their grievances. 'I am a human being.' A simple sentence which can indicate the depth of injustice and racial discrimination in U.S. society more effectively than hundreds of books.

"The magnitude of participation in the rally was so astounding that it took the White House by surprise. In a bid to play down the impact of such an outcry against racial discrimination in a country which considers itself the cradle of democracy and social equality. the U.S. media put the number of demonstrators at 400,000.

"At the rally Louis Farrakhan said that there were still two separate territories in the United States: White America and Black America. He further noted that Afro-Americans and their children are still slaves to the former masters.

"It seems that the call by the late Martin Luther King, Jr. for unity among black and white has so far received no response, since the gap between the two races has steadily widened. Almost one- third of Afro-Americans live below the poverty line, and unemployment among blacks is twice that among whites.

"Claims by U.S. officials regarding racial equality in U.S. society, equal opportunity, privileges, and civil rights hold no substance. Western liberalism has failed to achieve its proclaimed ideals.

"The oppressed people worldwide are realizing that the only ideology and school of thought which ensures equal rights, regardless of race, is the last divine message: Islam," the TEHRAN TIMES concluded.

An editorial on the same matter in IRAN NEWS said, "over a million Afro-Americans mounted a demonstration in front of the Congress on Monday to protest against the U.S. racial segregation policies.

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The paper added, "this was the largest demonstration of its kind and a clear sign of the intrinsic sickness in the American society.

"For years Washington has been priding itself on being the leading industrialized country in the world. But it would seem now that social justice is what the American society needs more than technological progress.

"From the beginning the United States founded its development on economic considerations and generally on materialistic factors and ignored moral, and spiritual improvement. The necessary condition for the creation of a harmonious community is the preservation of a balance between the material advance and moral and spiritual improvement. Consequently, the lack of moral criterion in much of the American social structure is the greatest vulnerable point of the American society.

"In the contemporary world, the most important criterion for the evaluation of a country's advancement is not its GNP alone. The real index of a country's progress is its citizen's collective peace of mind and the hope of better moral atmosphere.

"The high percentage of suicides, divorces, moral corruption and the gross injustice that prevails in the American urban community as a partial result of racial prejudice is not something that could be condoned in a country which is supposedly a world superpower.

"While being corroded from the inside, the United States insists on telling other peoples of the world how they should live.

"When the United States has failed to provide social justice for its own citizens, how could it insist on its illegitimate claim of being a leading power in the world," the editorial emphasized.

Oil Official on U.S. Sanctions, Oil Export Growth

LD1910085295 Tehran IRNA in English
0635 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — 19 weeks since imposition of U.S. sanctions, Iran is still among the world successful countries by exporting 2.5 million barrels of oil per day.

Iran has managed to replace American oil companies with new customers within a short period of time and at present has no problem concerning the oil sale.

U.S. sanctions against Iran has paved the way for companies in Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and Far East to purchase Iran's oil previously sold to the American companies.

The total oil purchase of American companies last year for sale outside the U.S. stood around four billion dollars.

Director of foreign relations department of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) hojjatollah Ghanimifard told IRNA here Wednesday [18 October] that the American companies, including Exxon, Texaco, Mobil, Coastal, B-Oil and Chevron, used to purchase 330,000 barrels of oil per day prior to the U.S. embargo against Iran.

Ghanimifard said that American officials and the foreign media supposed that American companies purchased about 660,000 barrels of oil per day or nearly 25 percent of Iran's crude exports.

He referred to the companies in China, Thailand, India, the Philippines, Singapore, Italy, Romania, Spain, South Africa, Uruguay and Canada, as new customers who have shown more interest to purchase oil from Iran within the said period.

In some occasions, he continued, oil purchase by new customers exeeded 330,000 barrels of oil per day which used to be purchased by the American companies in the past.

The Iranian official said oil delivery to destinations was a successful strategy, adding that Iran did not wait for customers at oil terminals, including Kharg Island. Rather, he added, it tried to increase its oil exports through oil delivery to destinations. To this end, in addition to its oil fleet, Iran used foreign oil tankers.

PRC Envoy Discusses Beijing's Ties With Tehran

LD1810203895 Tehran IRNA in English
2014 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — Chinese Ambassador to Tehran, Hua Liming here on Wednesday [18 October] said China regards Iran as one of its very close friends and believes that Tehran-Beijing relations would further promote.

In a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Ala'eddin Borujerdi at the end of his tenure in Tehran, Liming said the growing trend of Tehran-Beijing cooperation indicates the political will of the leadership of the two countries.

He expressed his satisfaction of the mutual cooperation specifically in the implementation of important projects.

Borujerdi said expansion of multi-lateral ties with China as the largest eastern Asian state is Tehran's long term policy.

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Iranian official said there are very good prospects for the promotion of the political, economic and cultural cooperations.

Daily Says UK Hinders Promotion of Tehran-EU Ties

LD1710102495 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — Britain has all along been a hindrance to good relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union and has even declared EU's positions on behalf of the Union's rotating president, a morning daily wrote Tuesday [17 October].

"Apparently, Britain is worried that the EU's resolution of its problems with Iran will deprive London of any excuse for keeping up its hostile policies towards the Islamic Republic," the English-language IRAN NEWS added.

The British daily 'THE GUARDIAN' has claimed that the EU has rejected Iran's proposal for negotiations to end the deadlock on the issue of Salman Rushdie, it said.

"Once again, the British press, quoting unidentified sources, have zoomed in on negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union," it noted.

Fact or fiction, the daily said, the British press articles openly indicate Britain's displeasure with and concern over promotion of ties between Tehran and the European Union.

A long-time colonialist in the region, the U.K. is not ready or willing to see the gradual decline of its traditional influence in the region, it stressed, adding, "but Iran's Islamic revolution which gave rise to the independence and power of the Islamic Republic in the region, as well as the European Union's desire for a more effective role in international developments, have appalled Britain."

Actually, the editorial underlined, Britain is worried that expansion and promotion of relations between Iran and the EU can expedite the decline of its sway over this part of the world.

A review of the history of European convergence shows that Britain has always been the troublemaker in the EU, it said adding, "whenever Britain found EU decisions contrary to its own ambitions, it impeded their implementation or created discord among other members."

Britain's outlooks have also created setbacks along the way of Europe's Union, it said, the fourteen EU members are constantly exposed to London's ambitions and obstructive approaches.

This is while Britain has all along strived to resolve its bilateral, regional, and international problems through the European Union and has involved EU members in U.K.-created difficulties, underlined the article.

It reiterated that currently, the EU is determined to solve its problems with the Islamic Republic of Iran by restoring the spirit of understanding on the basis of common interests, and by taking recourse to logical approaches agreeable to both sides and compatible with international conventions and norms.

"But Britain is obstructing the EU's decision-making process and obstructs mutual understanding among the EU members, thus exposing the Iran-Europe relations to tension," IRAN NEWS stated.

As a result, it said, every once in a while, Britain creates obstacles in the way of agreements reached between the EU and the Islamic Republic of Iran in a bid to disrupt the promotion of bilateral ties between them.

It also continued that Britain's indiscreet stance vis-a-vis developments in the world of Islam is reminiscent of its colonization and exploitation of Muslim nations, a memory which is always alive in the Iranian people.

"But Britain's dream of restoring its hegemony over the strategic Persian Gulf will never come true," it commented.

Iran has realized the goodwill displayed by many European Union members to resolve mutual problems, and has seriously taken a constructive part in different rounds of negotiations, it wrote.

"But hindering moves by few EU members, especially Britain, have thwarted all efforts to upgrade relations between the EU and the Islamic Republic of Iran," the paper stressed.

It concluded that only the future will tell whether or not the European Union will fall victim to the illogical considerations of its short-sighted member and give up its general political and economic interests.

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Velayati Meets Foreign Officials at NAM Session

Meets With Indian, Cypriot Leaders

NC1810122995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent from Cartagena, Colombia on 18 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sidelines of the 11th summit of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], our Foreign Minister Velayati met with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao last night and discussed important NAM issues with him. Referring to the two countries' significant roles in increasing the NAM's capabilities to confront important regional and international issues, the two officials called for closer cooperation between their countries. Indian Prime Minister Narsimha Rao described our country's role in the region as important, and said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a safe route through which to link various countries with Central Asia.

Our Foreign Minister Velayati also met with Cypriot President Glavkos Kliridhis last night. During this meeting, the Cypriot president expressed satisfaction over the good relations between their countries and stated: Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of our foreign policy's special priorities, and I am personally following up these growing relations. The Cypriot president also lauded the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to solve regional crises, and described this as a perceptive policy that is coupled with the awareness of our country's statesmen.

Our Foreign Minister Velayati also held separate meetings yesterday with the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Libya, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Turkmenistan, as well as with the president of Guyana and discussed bilateral and regional relations, as well as issues concerning the NAM.

Reporting for the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the 11th NAM summit in Cartagena, Colombia.

Further on Meeting With India's Rao

LD1810182195 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is in Colombia to attend the Non-Aligned summit conferred with Indian Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, on Wednesday [18 October].

In a meeting, held on the sideline of the summit, the two officials emphasized the need for cooperation among members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), particularly Iran and India, in resolving the major obstacles on the way of the movement.

They also discussed the key issues of NAM and the latest regional developments.

The ways to activate bilateral cooperation as well as the tripartite ties among Iran, India, and Turkmenistan were among other issues discussed by the two officials.

Inauguration of Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas railway on March 1994 and opening of Sarakhs-Mashhad railway next march are crucial steps in connecting the Central Asian states to the Persian Gulf, at southern Iran, said Velayati.

The railway lines will facilitate transit of goods across Iran, added the Velayati.

Addresses 'Cordial Ties' With Cyprus

LD1810104395 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 18 (IRNA) — Relations with Iran is given top priority in Cypriot foreign policy and the developments in Tehran-Nicosia ties are followed with special interest, President of Cyprus Glavkos Kliridhis announced in Cartagena on Tuesday [17 October].

Noting that Irano-Cypriot relations are becoming closer day by day, Klerides made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the sidelines of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) Summit currently in progress in Colombia. The NAM meet started Oct. 14 and will last until Oct. 20.

At the meeting where Cypriot Foreign Minister Alexandros Mikhailidhis was also present, Kliridhis said that Cyprus always lauded the "wise and principled" policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

With regards to the exchange of economic delegations by the two sides, he noted Iran's setting up of an exhibition in Oman recently as being "very successful".

He announced his country's interest in Velayati's welcoming an invitation, extended to him by Mikhailidhis, and paying an official visit to Cyprus.

Moreover, he briefed Velayati on the latest political and economic conditions and developments in Cyprus and its ties with the neighboring states.

Velayati in return referred to cordial ties and close cooperation between Tehran and Nicosia and termed the

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mutual consultations on various subjects including the NAM as "positive."

Moreover, he outlined latest regional developments at the meeting, where the two sides also discussed the scenario in the Balkans and in the Persian Gulf, including Iraq.

Meets Syrian, Qatari Officials

NC1910092395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian vice president and the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs held separate meetings with Foreign Minister Velayati on the sidelines of the 11th Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit in Colombia.

The Central News Unit reports that during the meeting, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam expressed satisfaction that close and friendly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria are growing, and discussed important regional issues with Mr. Velayati. During the meeting, both sides reiterated their support for the Islamic Resistance in liberating the occupied territories of southern Lebanon.

During the meeting between the Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs and Mr. Velayati, discussions covered the bilateral friendly relations, ways to strengthen the NAM, and the latest situation in the region.

Radio Says Changes in UNSC on NAM Summit Agenda

NC1810131395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 11th Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit is to open in the coastal city of Cartagena in Colombia today. Aside from the heads of state and delegations from 112 member-countries, representatives from other countries will participate as observers. In their speeches and discussions, the heads of state and delegations of the NAM member-countries will try to examine the draft final communique prepared by NAM experts and foreign ministers and to approve it after making some amendments.

Reports from Colombia indicate that discussions on the structure of the United Nations and of the UN Security Council [UNSC] are among the topics of the 11th NAM summit. These are important topics considering that on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations there is so much talk in political circles about where the United Nations stands.

The delegation heads participating in the NAM conference believe that any type of change in the UN structure should be made by considering the demands and requests of all the UN members, especially the NAM members. Therefore, any type of increase in the number of permanent UNSC members without taking the rights of the Third World countries into consideration will be tantamount to ignoring the demands of the NAM members.

Naturally, the United Nations belongs to all nations, and all the UN members should participate in its fate and changes to its structure. Therefore, before increasing the UNSC's permanent members, the criteria for this process must be determined. Past criteria and, especially, colonialist methods cannot determine the nations' rights to membership in the UNSC. In the past, the current permanent members have tried unjustly to maintain the veto right for themselves.

Meanwhile, if population, economic potential, country size, or other economic and political factors are to be used as criteria, many of the NAM members will qualify for permanent membership in the UNSC.

Commentary Views NAM Role in 'New World Order'

NC1910125595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Commentary by the News Commentary and Research Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 11th Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit opened in Cartagena, Colombia yesterday. This session is being attended by representatives from 113 countries. Apart from such topics as disarmament, racial discrimination, drug smuggling, and the democratization of the United Nations, the role of this movement after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union is also to be examined.

In terms of membership the NAM is second only to the United Nations among regional and international political, cultural, and economic forums. This is one of the noteworthy qualifications of the movement in its effort to promote collective objectives and principles. However, because of the diversity of outlooks among the members, decisionmaking on all global issues often meets difficulties. Even so, the NAM members have been able to coordinate on various levels and to examine major global and regional issues. This is considered to be significant.

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There is no doubt that the NAM can play a noteworthy role in the formation of the new world order. Since the end of the Cold War five years ago, the movement has faced new challenges. With rapid world developments, it is important for the movement's members to use the NAM to solve their problems. It is necessary for Third World countries to act in unison in order to be effective in developing a method and formula for future international relations. Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran—which has been and continues to be an active and serious participant in this forum—believes that, under these conditions, the NAM should expand its activities and its economic and political cooperation on the international scene. Therefore, Iran is playing a major role in the formation of the new world order.

The presence of the Islamic Republic's delegation at the session has given rise to expectations that, with the cooperation and concurrence of the other NAM members, the movement will be put on the right path to actively carry out its responsibilities. The Islamic Republic's constant emphasis on the need for the UN's democratization and restructure is one of the most pressing issues for the NAM. The fact that NAM members constitute a majority in the United Nations can be used to achieve these goals.

Moreover, the formation of an arbitration center with a suitable executive power for the solution of disputes and differences among the members appears to be necessary. This will help enhance the movement's usefulness and can prevent wasting of their energy and resources and quickly resolve crises among the members.

Foreign Ministry Denies Training of Afghan Troops

LD1910125095 Tehran IRNA in English
1232 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA — An informed source at Iran's Foreign Ministry on Thursday [19 October] refuted as a "mere lie" claims made by a Taleban spokesman that a number of Afghan Government troops were being trained in Iran.

The Islamic Republic has time and again announced its oppositionto the continued civil war in Afghanistan, the source added.

He said the Iranian Government believes that avoiding bloodshed and fratricide and choosing political negotiations were the only way to solve the crisis in Afghanistan.

Nation Said Not Aiding Afghan Pro-Rabbani Forces

LD1710111395 Tehran IRNA in English
0926 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — A morning daily reviewed Afghanistan's constitution and urged the various Afghan factions and their leaders to put aside their differences and form a coalition that would effectively govern the country and achieve the constitution's goals. The English-language 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial on Tuesday [17 October] wrote, "The Taleban have alleged that pro-Rabbani forces have crossed the border from Iran into Afghanisatn, implying that Iran is an accomplice. This is not only untrue, but irrelevant."

It went on, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is not involved in aiding or abetting pro-Rabbani attacks on Herat. The reason is that Iran has been and still is a proponent of a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan's crisis. Iran does not support and has never supported men killing their fellowmen."

"The Afghanistan crisis is an internal issue. Just as the soviets should have never become involved in Afghanistan, no foreign power, including iran, should become involved either," the paper pointed out.

It continued, "We have stated several times and, at the risk of redundancy, we shall state once again that all factions in Afghanistan should lay aside their differences in the interest of their own country. They should forgo their personal desires for power and petty internal squabbling in order to form a coalition that would effectively govern the country."

The daily continued by saying, "According to the Afghan Constitution the following rights are guaranteed to the people: the right to life and security, to complain to the appropriate government organs, to participate in the political sphere, to freedom of speech and thought, to hold peaceful demonstrations and strikes, to work, to free education, to protection of health and social welfare, to scientific, technical and cultural activities, to freedom of movement both within Afghanistan and abroad, to observe the religious rites of Islam and other religions, to security of residence and privacy of communication and correspondence, and to liberty and human dignity."

"The Constitution also provides that the state shall adopt necessary measures to ensure the health of mothers and children," the editorial stressed.

The daily added, "We ask the various factions and their leaders to take a tea break and read their own Constitution, to ask themselves which of the above

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rights have been provided to the people, and if there is any shortcoming, roll up their sleeves and set to work."

"When one works hard one doesn't have time for conspiracies and accusations," the editorial concluded.

IRNA Reports on Acceptance of Iraqi Refugees

LD1710194195 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 17, IRNA — Thirty-two countries including Iran, Sweden and the United States have expressed their readiness to receive a total of 15,360 Iraqi refugees stranded in the Rafha camps, northwest of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, since the end of the American-Iraqi war of 1991.

Abdul Mowla al-Sulh, president of UNHCR's mission in Saudi Arabia, told the daily 'ARAB NEWS' that only 13,739 from an original 31,828 Iraqi refugees remained in the Rafah camp, where they have been staying since June 1991.

The United States has offered to accept 8,057 refugees, followed by Iran with 2,275, Sweden 1,634, Australia 910, Holland 779, Norway 346, Canada, 324 and Finland 302.

"Three delegations from the United Nations, Iran and Holland have come to the camp to select new groups of refugees," al-Sulh said.

He said many countries have expressed hesitation to receive new groups of refugees due to the growing number of refugees.

Of the world's 25 million refugees, 70 percent are from Muslim countries. "This is a big problem for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees," he added.

Saudi Arabia has been a reluctant host to the Iraqi refugees who belong to the Shiite Arab majority of Iraq, and has confined them to a heavily restricted life in the camps, because of its fears of its own long-supressed Shiite population, which number over 80 percent in the country's eastern oil-rich region bordering the Persian Gulf.

TV Reports on ECO Session, Future Trade Ties

LD1710181895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second session of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, member countries' customs' chiefs ended this afternoon in Tehran.

The session discussed and studied issues concerning transit of goods between member countries; selective tariffs; commercial offenses, and training of the customs' staff of ECO member countries.

Mr. Vahaji, chief of Iran's Customs, said at the conclusion of the session: The understandings reached at this session will prepare the ground for the expansion of trade cooperation between ECO member countries and the transformation of this organization into an economic pole.

At the inauguration ceremony of the ECO session in Tehran, the minister of economic affairs and finance announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to place at the disposal of the 10 ECO member countries its experiences and achievements from more than $150 billion worth of investment over the past six years.

Manila Seeks Aid To Develop Petrochemical Industry

LD1710201995 Tehran IRNA in English 2004 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — Philippines Energy Minister Francisco Viray in a meeting here today with Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, called for Iranian aid to boost the petrochemical industry in his country.

Viray invited Iran to participate in the new petrochemical projects in the Philippines, according to the public relations office of the Iranian Oil Ministry.

The Filipino minister's visit to Iran is a follow up to the agreements reached in the oil and energy sectors last week between the two countries during President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's state visit to Manila.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i expressed Iran's readiness to supply petrochemical raw materials to the Philippines, exchange technical information and take part in producing plastic raw materials.

Iran will also provide a part of the crude oil needs of Philippines' refineries, he added.

Cooperation in the area of petrochemicals and purchase of oil derivatives from Iran are to be reviewed soon at a meeting in Manila between Iranian and Filipino expert delegations.

Philippine Official Urges Expansion of Ties

LD1710170795 Tehran IRNA in English 0659 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives Jose de Venecia stressed here Monday [16 October] that the signing of seven agreements between Tehran and Manila, despite pressures exerted by the U.S. Government, indicates that there exists a powerful political determination to promote bilateral ties.

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He made the remark in a meeting with his iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran is an important country in the Asian region and expressed his statisfaction over the expansion of mutual cooperation.

Referring to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to his country, the Filipino official reiterated that the Iranian president's trip made a great impact on strengthening the two countries' relations.

Noting that prospects are bright for the upgrading of bilateral ties, he called for the inking of some parliamentary agreements.

Nateq-Nuri expressed his happiness over the visit of de Venecia to the Islamic Republic, and voiced Iran's satisfaction over the improving relations of Iran and the Philippines.

He expressed hope that the agreements reached between the two sides during President Rafsanjani's visit to the Asian country would be implemented soon.

Referring to the Philippines' opposition to the U.S. economic embargo against Iran, he stressed that this is an indication of the country's independent policy.

He further noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran would follow up the problems of Muslims in that country and will make efforts to solve them.

At the end of the meeting, in reply to de Venecia's invitation for a trip to his country, the majlis speaker expressed hope that he would visit the Philippines at an appropriate time.

UAE Claim to Islands in Gulf Said 'Hollow'

NC1810115995 Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Oct 95 p 8

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "The Recommendations of Shaykh Rashid and Others"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] foreign minister once again raised the seasonal claim that is also made by a few other governments. While repeating the hollow claim of ownership of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, he announced that if Tehran did not show the necessary flexibility in the direct bilateral talks, the Abu Dhabi government would pursue the matter at the level of the International Court of Justice [IJC] at The Hague.

The rhetoric of Shaykh Rashid al-Nu'aymi at the UN General Assembly—even though it was phrased in the appropriate terms of caution and security and was delivered in close proximity of time and place to Clinton, his benefactor—is repetitive. Response to it has also been made repeatedly by officials, in the press, and by the Iranian media. However, it would be worthwhile to remind Shaykh Rashid and the other Abu Dhabi echelons of a few points.

First, Islamic Iran has never laid covetous eyes on the territory of any of its neighbors, including the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf, and there is not a single authoritative source that can present any evidence to this effect. However, one should not overlook the fact that due the policy of indulgence, laxity, and restraint on the part of Tehran to politico-propagandist moves of pseudo-governments such as the UAE, some U.S. affiliates in the region are harboring hollow and wishful delusions. They believe that if the United States has unsheathed the sword of animosity against the Islamic system, one should capitalize on the opportunity to fish in muddy waters.

They are quite oblivious of the fact that their benefactor the United States, with all its hollow military might and pomp and war- instigating allegations, does not even permit itself to think about any serious embroilment with Islamic Iran.

Second, Shaykh Rashid and the others who invite the U.S. fleets should know that the United States—in keeping with its policy of exerting the maximum pressure on Iran—considers them small pressure levers on Tehran that have a specific date of consumption. If, by cherishing visions of attaining political and economic gratification, they succumb to being used as fuel for Washington's fanning the fires [of hostility] in the region, they will certainly not achieve their objectives.

If we were to suppose that in their imaginary world, a government leaning to the United States were to come into power into Iran, they would still not get the aforementioned three islands. However, regarding the threat of dragging the IJC into it, it would behoove him to explain to the people of the region which side is really opposed to direct and bilateral talks. Why did he not reciprocate Dr. Velayati's visit to Abu Dhabi by visiting Tehran? This way, could he not prevent the heightening of differences and attempt to resolve them?

Fourth [as published], if the esteemed UAE shaykh is threatening to refer the matter to the IJC and is flaunting laws and regulations in others' faces, he should cast another glance at the 1971 agreement between the UAE and Iran and inform the people of the region of the manner in which they adhere to an international accord and resolve their differences therein.

Fifth, Shaykh Rashid and his ilk should notice that the insistance on the territorial claims and the violation of the border agreements in the sensitive Persian Gulf

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region are not to the benefit of the region. However, Islamic Iran has proved through experience that it will not hesitate in the slightest in defending its territorial integrity and that it is not prepared to tolerate any reneging on the substance of such border agreements. It will not accept even the slightest change in these agreements without the concurrence of the two sides concerned.

But if such an atmosphere has been created due to the illogical attitude of those who have become stooges in the hands of foreigners, the existence of these pseudo-governments with areas of a few kilometers will be far more vulnerable than the much larger country of Iran.

However, what should we do in the face of such baseless claims? Verbal responses to the unfounded claims by the UAE at certain junctures and then relegating them to oblivion will not end this problem that others are bent on fanning. Our foreign minister and diplomats should prevent the issue from becoming magnified to the benefit of others and their mentors and should confront the reiteration of these claims so that it does not become another pressure lever in the hands of the sworn enemies of the Islamic Revolution in international circles such as the IJC at The Hague.

In fact, some of those governments—we do not know why the officials of which harp on friendship and goodneighborliness with us during their visits to Tehran and then return to their countries supporting the hollow claims of the UAE—should learn a lesson and deliver the final verdict on these seasonal views.

Conference To Discuss Caspian Sea Issues To Begin

LD1810152695 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 18 (IRNA) — A parliamentary team will attend a conference at Machah Ghaleh in the Autonomous Dagestan Republic on October 20, to discuss the legal regime for the Caspian Sea, a Majles deputy announced.

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS published Wednesday [18 October], Mohammad Hoseyni, Torbat-e Jam's representative at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, said, "the object of the conference is to examine the legal aspects of utilization of resources in the Caspian Sea."

This is the beginning of a series of parliamentary actions conducting free discussions with the nations surrounding the Caspian Sea, he added.

"Peaceful coexistence should be encouraged around the Caspian Sea so that the nations involved can use each other's capabilities to solve their problems, exploit the sea's resources properly and avoid damaging the living environment," he underlined.

Commenting on the method of exploitation of the sea, Hoseyni, who is also a member of the foreign commission of the Majles said, "exploitation of the resources in the sea bed, marking territorial boundaries, participation of the non-littoral states in exploiting the wealth of the sea as well as the security of capital investment in the region are topics to be discussed in this conference."

The conference will probe whether the littoral states can supply the needed technology and avoid foreign interference in this region of the world, the daily concluded.

Khamene'i Inspects Oil Platform in Caspian Sea

LD1710125995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, inspected an oil drilling platform in the Caspian sea last night and was briefed about its features.

This huge drilling platform weighs 6,500 tonnes and has been built by Iranian experts. It is capable of drilling some 6,000 meters deep into the sea. Oil Minister Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i and Industries Minister Mr. Ne'matzadeh accompanied Khamene'i on this visit. Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i and the manager in charge of the project's construction explained that the construction of the platform conformed to the highest world standards. This means that the platform can withstand waves of up to 14 meters and can drill to a depth of 91 meters to the bottom of the sea.

The leader of the revolution was also briefed about the Oil Ministry's activities in connection with carrying out this projects which is the first sea oil drilling platform. [passage omitted] [video shows Khamene'i inspecting the platform under floodlight, talking to engineers, others; Aqazadeh-Kho'i explaining project map and clips of the drilling equipment; Khamene'i visiting exhibition]

Khamene'i Stresses Ulema's Role in Revolution

LD1510120395 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., Oct. 15, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i here Saturday [14 October] night received a large group of Muslim ulema and prayer leaders residing in this northern Caspian province.

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In his address to the visitors, the supreme leader stressed that Muslim ulema have been the forerunners in the struggles against the former monarchical regime of Iran during 1962-1978 period .

Referring to the strategic geo-political position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamene'i noted that following the 8-year Iraqi imposed war, the Islamic Republic achieved great victories.

Iran, living under the banner of Islam, is being attached a great importance by people around the globe, Ayatollah Khamene'i underlined.

The leader of the Islamic revolution called on clerics to keep abreast of all regional and international developments.

At the end of his speech the supreme leader called on all the Iranian people to actively participate in the reconstruction of their country.

Ayatollah Khamene'i arrived here Saturday and was welcomed by hundreds of thousands of jubilant people who had rushed to Sari from various parts of the province to greet their leader.

Passenger Plane Hijacker Arrested; Trial 'Soon'

LD1910122395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The open trial of one of the hijackers of a passenger aircraft belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran will soon be held in Tehran's Revolutionary Court. He hijacked an aircraft en route from Tehran to Bushehr in 1363 [year beginning 21 March 1984], and took it to Cairo.

In an interview with our correspondent, Mr. Rahparpur, head of Tehran's Revolutionary Court, said: Gholamreza Vahidju, who hijacked an Iranian aircraft in collaboration with a dismissed military person, was recently identified and arrested when he arrived in our country, as a result of efforts made by the security forces. He had lived in Iraq and an Paris. [passage omitted]

Navy Chief Cited on Maneuvers With Other Countries

LD1710144195 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Noshahr, Mazandaran Prov. Oct. 17, IRNA — The Iranian navy will launch 38 maneuvers in the Persian Gulf waters by the end of the current Iranian year, March 20, [19]96, announced commander of the Iranian navy, Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani.

Admiral Shamkhani added that the Iranian navy since beginning of the current year has launched 19 war games in the Persian Gulf waters aimed to boost capability of its units.

He also said that naval forces of Iran and Pakistan by the end of the current Iranian year will launch a joint war game.

Preparations have also been made for a joint maneuver with another neighbouring country, he said without naming the country.

Admiral Shamkhani is here to introduce the new head of Noshahr's Marine Sciences Academy.

Pakistan

Bhutto on India's Nuclear Program, Kashmir

BK1810035995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The 11th Nonaligned Movement summit conference begins at Cartagena in Colombia today. It will deliberate, among other things, on the issues of poverty, nuclear disarmament, peacekeeping operations, and strengthening its position in the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is leading the Pakistan delegation at the conference. [passage omitted]

Ms. Benazir Bhutto, during a short stopover in London on her way to Colombia attended a reception. It was also attended by a large number of British MP's notably those who supported Kashmir cause in the British Parliament. [passage omitted]

In an interview with British Sky Television in London, the prime minister expressed grave concern over India's missile program, which she said, poses danger not only to Pakistan but to all neighboring countries, including Iran. She said India's nuclear program, which started in 1974, also posed danger at the international level. The prime minister said India was committing atrocities in occupied Kashmir and facing a struggle by the Kashmiri people themselves for their right to self-determination. The prime minister again offered India to enter into meaningful talks with Pakistan on Kashmir in order to bring normalcy in the region.

Iranian Daily Interviews Ambassador in Tehran

NC1810191095 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Oct 95 pp 1, 14

[Interview with Ambassador to Iran Khalid Mahmud by unidentified correspondent in Tehran "early last week"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [RESALAT] On the pretext of the existence of a program for manufacturing nuclear arms in Pakistan, the United States suspended Pakistan's

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arms purchases for a period of five years. But on 21 September, the U.S. Senate decided to deliver part of these arms worth $370 million to Pakistan and the U.S. Government approved this decision. In your opinion, what factors were involved in this change of policy and what consequences do you foresee?

[Mahmud] Pakistan had relations with the United States in the past. We purchased arms from them and sent materiel to the United States for repairs or received spare parts. We also had an agreement for the purchase of F-16's. Then a U.S. senator called Pressler added an amendment to the U.S. agreement on these transactions, under which no arms sales were to be made to Pakistan unless the U.S. President confirmed that Pakistan did not have a nuclear program. This amendment came to be known as the "Pressler Amendment". Following that, the U.S. President did make this confirmation and the sale of arms to Pakistan continued. But in 1990, President George Bush refused to give confirmation.

Thus, these arms sales to Pakistan were halted and the United States halted the delivery of planes, materiel, or spare parts to us. According to the Pressler Amendment, the objective behind this was to prevent the manufacturing of nuclear arms in Pakistan. We opposed this amendment from the very start. We asked why this amendment should apply to Pakistan alone and why there was no similar amendment against any other country? We stated that discrimination against Pakistan was the reason this amendment had been imposed. We said that our nuclear program is peaceful. The United States tried to force us to accept certain restrictions in our nuclear program. They wanted to examine our nuclear program. But we did not accept that and said we will not accept any type of restrictions unless the same restrictions applied to India as well.

They did not achieve their goal with the Pressler Amendment, because we continued our nuclear program in southern Asia. India too continued its nuclear program. When Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto went to the United States, this topic was discussed with President Bill Clinton, who overtly admitted that this amendment was unjust and said that efforts would be made to convince Congress to add another amendment to amend this bill. Following that, the issue was placed into legislative channels in the United States and it was decided that part of the arms and spare parts and some of the Orion aircraft carriers worth $370 million be delivered to Pakistan.

However, the United States is not delivering the F-16's to Pakistan, but would instead sell these planes to a third country and reimburse Pakistan. Of course, this was Pakistan's right and the United States was not doing it any favors.

Also, it was decided that cooperation between Pakistan and the United States in non-military fields such as fighting terrorism and drug smuggling be increased.

Of course, the United States tried to impose its influence on us in many fields. But we did not give in. For example, in the nuclear field, we did not accept any of their restrictions. And in the problems of Kashmir and the Middle East, we continued our stands.

Also, on the issue of the sanctions on Iran, we did not agree with the United States's stand. And we did not retreat from our positions under U.S. pressures on any of these issues.

[RESALAT] Mr. Ambassador, you referred to your cooperation with the United States in the fight against terrorism. What definition of terrorism has been given to you, and how does the United States like to define this term in the region?

[Mahmud] I can say that in our opinion, there is terrorism wherever there is violence. But the people of the world have the right to use any possible means to vindicate their rights. And in our opinion, the armed struggles of the people in Pakistan, in Kashmir, and... [ellipsis as published] cannot be considered as terrorism. It should be noted that terrorism is not solely something that is perpetrated by individuals. Some governments too are involved in engineering and directing terrorism. For example, in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Israeli Government is perpetrating state terrorism.

In the occupied territories of Kashmir, the Indian Government is perpetrating state terrorism against the Kashmiri people. In our opinion, the unjust killing of innocent people, as well as the overthrow or removal of legal governments, constitutes terrorism.

[RESALAT] In its proposals for cooperation with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism, did the United States refer to a specific group or government or to a specific strategy for this fight?

[Mahmud] I should say that we are not cooperating solely with the United States in the fight against terrorism. We are also cooperating with the Islamic Republic of Iran in this field.

[RESALAT] Has the United States not told you to fight against Iran, which is included in its notorious list of countries that support terrorism?

[Mahmud] No. the United States has not said anything of this sort. Terrorism has been defined by UN conventions, and we fully observe whatever is stated in UN conventions.

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[RESALAT] But when a cooperation in any field is not fully defined, it is practically unimplementable.

[Mahmud] You are right. We do not agree with the United States as far as that list is concerned. Pakistan has the closest possible relations with some of the countries that are included on that list. There is no possibility of cooperation in the way the United States wants. We, like Iran and any other country, want to fight against terrorism. But when it comes to action, we should see how we define terrorism. We define terrorism exactly in the same way that the UN conventions define it.

[RESALAT] The United States has its own specific interpretation for international problems, even as far as legal aspects and international customs are concerned. How has the United States defined terrorism to you?

[Mahmud] If someday the United States tells us to fight against Iran, we will oppose. If it tells us to fight and oppose the Palestinian combatants, we will not accept. But if it wants us to cooperate in solving, say, a hijacking crisis, we will cooperate.

[RESALAT] As far as recent developments in Afghanistan are concerned, some political circles believe that there is a sort of uniformity of tactics between Pakistan's national and national security interests and U.S. national and national security interests on the issue of the Taleban Group. For example, the United States wants monopoly of the link from the south to the Central Asian republics to be removed from the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Pakistan wants to have a route for itself via Pakistan to these republics. The Taleban Group is now busy mopping up a shorter but more unsafe route which passes through Afghan territory to these republics. Some political circles even believe that if the Taleban Group comes to power in Afghanistan, this road will be prepared for Pakistan's use. What is your opinion?

[Mahmud] First of all, allow me to turn down the idea that the United States and Pakistan have a uniformity of tactics on the issue, because tactics are the outcome of policies, and if there is no political uniformity there cannot be a uniformity of tactics either. Of course, we want to cooperate with the United States in the economic and military fields. But this does not mean that we agree with the United States on everything. This does not mean that we follow the United States on every issue.

[RESALAT] But we have heard some things about a confrence that was held in Karachi and made possible by the Taleban Group, and the fact that apparently last Mordad [month ending 22 August] it was decided that an eight-man group comprising six Pakistanis and two Americans undertake the leadership of the Taleban and that the Taleban pave the way for Zaher Shah's return. Apparently both Islamabad and Washington agreed on this.

[Mahmud] I think that it is better for me to refer to Pakistan's general policy on Afghanistan, which will answer all your questions. After the former Soviet Union's aggression against and occupation of Afghanistan, we—like Iran—opposed this aggression and we—like Iran—housed more than 3.5 million Afghan refugees. Also, during these years, Pakistan was itself the target of some attacks from Afghan territory. For example, there were missile attacks or bombs that were downed and exploded on Pakistani territory. Because of the large number of these refugees, drug and arms smuggling spread in Pakistan. But none of these problems prevented us from supporting the Afghans' jihadi movement, and there was and is full cooperation in this field between Iran and Pakistan.

After the withdrawal of the Soviet forces, we—like all the other countries—hoped that peace and tranquility would return to Afghanistan. We, like Iran, tried to convince Afghanistan's jihadi leaders to gather and form a wide government comprised of all the jihadi groups. And it was as a result of all this that agreements were reached in Peshawar and Mecca. But the leaders of the Afghan mujahidin did not want to implement these agreements and decided to embark on a civil war. During the jihad against the Soviet aggression, Pakistan supported all the jihadi groups. But once the occupation ended, we ceased our support for all these groups. And it was then that the problems started, because the leader of each group wanted us to support him against the leaders of the other groups, and if we did not support a group, it was interpreted as hostility. But what we want is for all these groups to sit together and to form an all-embracing government in Afghanistan. This is why we supported the plans put forth by the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Afghanistan.

As for the Taleban phenomenon, it should be said that during the 10 years that Afghan refugees lived in Pakistan, a new generation was born, brought up, and educated in Pakistan. The same applies to any other country which is involved in a war.

Refugees returned to their homeland after a while and fought against the aggressor. Those Afghanis who were educated in Pakistan's religious schools also went to Afghanistan to fight. During the occupation of Afghanistan, the members of this group fought against the Soviet occupation together with other groups. After the end of the occupation, each part of Afghanistan fell

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into the hands of one group or one war commander—some of whom were extremely despotic. Gradually, dissent rose among the Afghan people against whom oppression was being exercised by these war commanders. And finally in October last year in Qandahar, where the commanders of some groups were inflicting too much pressure on the people, raping women, blocking roads and forcing people to pay tolls, a number of Taleban members rose and released prisoners, removed the road blocks, and arrested the treacherous leaders.

Incidentally, some Pakistani trucks which had been trapped in the road blocks were able to leave when the blocks were lifted. It was in order to remove these problems that wherever these people went, they were supported by the people and their number gradually rose. They did not meet any resistance anywhere. The victory of this group was not because they were strong. Their victory was because of the people's support for them since the people were fed up with the war. But the Taleban failed wherever they confronted resistance. For example, when they tried to occupy Kabul, they met resistance by the forces of Rabbani or Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and failed. But when the Taleban entered Herat, there was no resistance against them. In time, they advanced.

On the basis of its policy, Pakistan established contact with the Taleban Group in the same way that it has contacts with all the other groups. We told them that what they are doing is not working toward a solution to Afghanistan's problems. In the same way that Pakistan established contacts with Sayyaf, Rabbani, Hekmatyar, and Shah Mas'ud, it also established a contact with the Taleban.

Another reason we do not agree with them is that they are extreme hard-liners and extremely strict with women. They believe women should be completely covered up with Islamic attire, that they should stay at home and not work, that there should be no music, and so on. But in our country we have a woman prime minister. Of course, the Taleban are now an undisputed power and can come to partial power in Afghanistan—but not fully and completely on their own.

[RESALAT] I have a question about the Taleban and the fact that they have great financial potential. They have bought some of the khans who have parts of Afghanistan in their hands. They are also strong in weapons and even have aircraft which support them. Is this financial and military potential of the Taleban not suspicious to you?

[Mahmud] As far as the planes are concerned, I should say that they have occupied the Shindand air base where there were planes. What I emphasize is that Pakistan does not help the Taleban, as you know. The Taleban even forced a plane carrying a military consignment and materiel to land. They get what they want through various means. The other groups in Afghanistan are strong too, and after all these years of war—since 1989—they are still militarily strong. Who has helped them?

[RESALAT] But they [Taleban] used planes in their raids even before they occupied the Shindand air base!

[Mahmud] In this respect, we can refer to two things. The first is that Pakistan does not support the Taleban or any other jihadi leader or movement in Pakistan.

The second is on who is interfering in Afghanistan? I should say that one party is Russia, which has a direct role in this and we have documents to prove it. India has sent a planeload of materiel to help Rabbani's government. Indian planes have been seen unloading military assistance and equipment. We have documents to prove that India is helping Rabbani to make his air force operational. As for who is interfering as far as the other groups are concerned, we do not know anything. But we say that Pakistan is not helping the Taleban in any way. We oppose the interference by any country in Afghanistan's domestic affairs, and this is why the Rabbani government is upset with us. He is upset because we have turned down his request for assistance.

[RESALAT] Mr. Islambeyg, former chief of joint staffs of Pakistan said in one of his speeches that the United States is behind the Taleban issue. But Mr. Ambassador, you have not made any reference to this. As for Russia, we should say that some circles now say that Russia is worried about the advancement of the Taleban. How do you explain this contradiction?

[Mahmud] There are various views that are being expressed on this. But the Russian plane which was forced to land there is a reality. However, as far as I know, the situation is exactly like what I explained above.

[RESALAT] What do you have to say about the roads to the Central Asian republics and about Pakistan's goal and the Talebans' role in this?

[Mahmud] There are three routes. One is through Afghanistan, the other is through Iran, and the third is through Turkey. Pakistan has as much right as Iran and Turkey to use and to develop all these routes. For example, Iran is building a railway from the south to the north and is connecting it to the Central Asian republics. Pakistan too has the right to develop its highways toward these republics and to build a railway to them via Afghanistan.

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These countries are justified in using these roads. They have the legal right to use them, and the highway that passes via Afghanistan to the Central Asian republics is more justifiable because it is the shortest route and about 1,000 km shorter than the route that passes through Iran. The road that passes through Turkey too is 1,000 km longer than the route that passes through Iran. The issue of how the highways the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member-countries developed can be used has also been taken into consideration even in ECO agreements. I think that there is no problem in using and developing these highways.

These are not rivalries, but efforts to develop this network of highways. Your country has a railway and highway link with the Central Asian countries. It has a pipeline. In the same way, Pakistan wants to set up a pipeline, a railway, and a highway. Probably Turkey wants to do the same as well.

However, your country has no problems because it neighbors Turkmenistan and is directly linked with Central Asia. But as far as Pakistan is concerned, the route that can link it with the Central Asian republics passes through Afghanistan, and Afghanistan is itself an ECO member.

Our link with the Central Asian republics, either by railway or by pipeline, cannot be established unless there is stability and security in Afghanistan. And we think that stability and security will not be established in Afghanistan.

[RESALAT] The Wahhabis in Pakistan, who perpetrated subversive and terrorist acts against the Shiites, were persecuted and a group of them were arrested. We want to know what punitive measures will be taken against those who were arrested. Is the Pakistani Government serious in its decision to punish them and to arrest those who are still on the run? And, in general, what changes have taken place in the situation of the Shiites in Pakistan now? Also, please speak to us about the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] and about the factors that will help to create stability and calm in Karachi in the future?

[Mahmud] There used to be peace and friendship among all the religious minorities in Pakistan, without any type of enmity among them. Marriages were and are still performed among various minorities. This problem was created about 10-15 years ago. Of course, small problems did rise sometimes, in the same way that differences sometimes arose among the Pakistani Shiites too.

As you know, violence breeds violence, and if violence is reciprocated with violence, it leads to even more violence.

Because of this, a problem that Pakistan could have solved on its own adopted a global nature and everyone wanted to interfere. For example, because of this we had to close down the Indian consulate in Karachi. Pakistan will do whatever it can to establish order in Karachi. Our methods are not discriminatory. Whoever perpetrates a violation, irrespective of race and creed, will be tried by law. Everyone is equal in the eyes of the law. I do not want to name any other country as the perpetrator of unrest in Karachi. I name India solely because there are many documents to prove it. In order to solve the problem in Karachi:

1. We have adopted a three aspect method. One is the political aspect, the basis of which is talks to be held with the MQM so that we can find a political solution to the problem;

2. The second is the economic aspect. The Pakistani prime minister has stated that a strong budget be allocated for improving the economic-social situation in Karachi because this, like unemployment and so fourth, leads to friction. And the third is that, in parallel with tending to political and economic problems, we should do also our best to try to end the lawlessness in Karachi. [paragraphs and numbering as published]

[RESALAT] There is one view that the Karachi issue is linked with the Afghan issue, that is, that members of the MQM and especially its leadership follow Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. Mas'ud, in turn, has stated somewhere that the more the Taleban inflicts pressure on Kabul, the more he will avenge them in Karachi. What is your opinion?

[Mahmud] I do not know of any proof of this link. But, at any rate, I can say that in view of the problems and conflicts in Afghanistan and the fact that for many years, all these Afghan refugees were in Pakistan, the smuggling of drugs and arms has spread to Pakistan. Before this, it was not so simple for people to acquire arms and drugs so easily. Today drug and arms smuggling is carried out very easily in Pakistan. Of course, I do not deny the fact that we have a problem in Karachi. But if they leave us alone and stop interfering in our domestic affairs, we will easily be able to solve our problems.

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Editorial Decries Arrest of Army Officers

BK1810122995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Oct 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Impudent Comments"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Our politicians love controversies. These keep them in the news and thus politically buoyant. There are some controversies, however, that should be left alone. The arrest of a group of army officers on charges of allegedly violating institutional discipline, last week is one such hands-off variety. The reason for this is not that it involves the army. Pakistan is a country where there are no holy cows and nothing is too sacred to escape the comments of habitual tongue-wielders.

The reason has to do with the nature of the controversy and lack of precise information about what actually happened. All that is known and that too through sketchy news reports is that a bunch of army officers were thinking of implementing their wooly foreign and domestic policy ideas, but they were detected in time and held for interrogation. The contents of no two of the dozens of news stories that have appeared on the incident give information that tallies. From the motives of the group, to their exact number and to how close they were to achieving their goals, nothing is certain. This makes opinions expressed about the affair poorly-informed at best and, at worst, absolutely speculative. Regrettably, Qazi Hussain Ahmad of the Jamaat-e-Islami and Senator Tariq Chaudhary and even Maulana Fazlur Rehman have been freely speaking on the issue. Qazi Hussain Ahmad has been more strident of the three. He has vouched for the patriotic credentials of the arrested army officers. For him to do that, means that either he personally knows them all, which is unlikely, or he was privy to whatever the leaders of the arrested group were up to, which places him in an awkward position.

His comments appear all the more unnecessary because of the fact that the matter falls in the purview of the army, which is investigating it. Even Qazi Sahib's long and warm relations with Gen. Zia-ul-Haq's martial law regime do not qualify him to encroach on GHQ's [General Headquarters] territory. It is important to make this point because for politicians to be able to earn the respect of the armed forces for their mandate, they have to learn to respect the procedures that make the army an efficient organisation.

It will be a different matter once it is firmly established that the army officers were involved in a plan that had political consequences. Then their actions should be discussed and the matter be taken up by the parliament and the minister of defence asked to fully brief the legislature about the issue. It will be in the fitness of things for the GHQ to take the public into confidence and lay the report of the investigation bare. And till that happens, Qazi Hussain Ahmad and others like him should keep their views to themselves.

Editorial Urges Disclosure of Details

BK1810125095 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 18 Oct 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Make the Facts Public"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once the report about the arrest of senior and junior officers of the Pakistani Army hit the country, sentiments of concern, interest, and surprise were expressed. The officers have been charged, or rather they are suspected, of conspiracy of mutiny. The most important aspect is that those who have been arrested are religiously-minded people and they are allegedly linked with fundamentalist organizations. These officials were arrested in Rawalpindi and now there are reports that others have been arrested in Gawadar. Unfortunately the response from the authorities is as vague as the news itself. The source of the initial report was Senator Tariq Chaudhry, and instantly Aftab Shaban Mirani, the minister of defense, was reported as saying that he knew nothing about this event. More confusion was created by the spokesman of the ISPR [Inter Services Public Relations], who refused to deny or confirm the report. Then the very next day, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto confirmed the arrest of the army officials. The news remained vague as the prime minister refused to give any details of the incident. While responsible persons were neither confirming nor denying the incident, newspapers were publishing analytical reports. A reporter from one of the English dailies, in his special analysis, elucidated the background of the incident, but all the facts were attributed to unnamed, but responsible, sources. The question is whether the silence of responsible authorities is a measure of expediency, or a strategic ploy? The only possible reason behind the silence is that publicizing the details of this incident and its motives may cause unrest. If silence is part of a greater strategy, the motive could be that before giving the official point of view, it is necessary to obtain the reaction of different groups. This unnecessary ambiguity has resulted in speculation all around. Looking into the gravity of the problem are elected representatives, who have claimed to take this matter up in the National Assembly and the Senate. The silence of the people concerned with the incident is more conspicuous because it has been quite a few days since the incident occurred and by now the initial investigation should be completed and the facts collected.

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The reaction of various political and religious parties is quite natural, timely and in accordance with the aspirations of the people. The leader of Jama'et-i-Islamai Qazi Hussain Ahmed has rightly asked the concerned officials to reveal the background of the incident. Is it the beginning of the process of cleansing the military of religious elements? Is this an international conspiracy to deviate the army from its original objective? Maulana Aimal, the leader of Jamlat ul Ulema-i-Islam (Fazlur Rehman Group) and other political and religious leaders have raised similar questions. These questions are extremely important in light of the situation in the country and the region, and particularly because of increasing U.S. interference in our country's affairs. We believe that our people have a right to know the details of an incident that is occurring in our country's most important institution. It would have been better had the authorities themselves brought the facts to light and had the incident not been covered under an umbrella of ambiguity. However since this was not done, the demand to make the facts public has emerged as a popular demand. It is necessary to hear not only the point of view of the accused, but it also to hear how these ideas developed. To demand that the facts be publicized is for no other reason than this.

Kashmir Leader Comments on Plebiscite, Elections

BK1310114695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mir Waiz Mawlavi Omar Farooq, has said a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute is still possible, provided India accepts that the Kashmiris were not ready to be governed by Indian Constitution. He was addressing a news conference at the UN Press Center in New York. He said that is why the proposed Indian-sponsored elections in the held valley have been rejected. He made it clear that elections could not be a substitute to a UN supervised exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Mir Waiz said the only impediment to a peaceful solution of Kashmir issue is Indian refusal to recognize the international mandate for a right of self-determination.

To a question, Mawlavi Omar Farooq said he is not opposed to talks between Pakistan and India, provided the exercise contributed to a solution of the core issue of Kashmir. He admitted to have requested the United States to help solve the dispute.

Bank Chief's View of 'Major Fiscal Crisis' Reported

BK0810095195 Islamabad THE NATION in English 8 Oct 95 p 1,5

[Report by Ahmed Rashid]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—The Governor of the State Bank, Dr Muhammad Yakub, told The Nation that between July 1 and September 14, the government has already borrowed Rs [rupees] 36.8 billion—or nearly Rs 7 billion more than its own target with 9 months still to go in the current financial year. In the June budget, the government promised itself and the IMF that it would limit borrowing for budgetary support for 1995-96 to Rs 30 billion, so that the budget deficit target of 5 per cent could be met. However, it now appears that at every level the government is faced with a major fiscal crisis, which some Karachi bankers describe as the worst in the country's history.

The first two months July and August of the new 1995-96 financial year have been grim. Exports are down 20 per cent remittances from Pakistani workers also down, foreign currency reserves have sunk from US 2.5 billion dollars to US 1.7 billion in the past two months and the violence in Kararchi has reduced revenue receipts. The government has been borrowing at an astronomical rate just to keep afloat.

"Government borrowing went up to Rs 40 billion earlier but this came down with receipts from revenue collection. In the past the government has borrowed more in the first two months of the year. However, the government committed itself to achieve the fiscal target of 5 per cent and contain monetary expansion to 13 per cent," said Yakub. "Monetary expansion has been in excess of what we have targeted or what I would have liked," he added. The I would have liked," he added. The surge in borrowing has further fuelled inflation and Yakub sees the SBP's [State Bank of Pakistan's] main task as controlling inflation — put at 13 per cent by the government but around 22 per cent by independent economists. "The SBP's and the country's priority is to control inflation. It is not only an economic imperative but a social and political imperative," he said.

At the IMF annual moot in Washington this week, senior officials from the long list of creditor nations and international banks who lend to Pakistan, will be buttonholing Governor Yakub in particular. Regarded by international lending agencies as the most competent and incorruptible of Pakistan's economic managers, Yakub walks the finest of tightropes.

On one side is the government caught up in an ever-deepening fiscal crisis and dependent on heavy borrow-

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ing from domestic banks for budgetary support. On the other is the need to maintain the credibility of the semi-autonomous SBP, which is there to guide monetary policy. Then there is an angry IMF, with whom Pakistan reneged on its 3-year agreement in June. Yakub's other critics include almost everyone, from textile exporters who want an instant devaluation of the rupee to save their industry from collapse, industrialists who are demanding lower interest rates and state- owned banks, whose portfolios hold an average of 30 per cent of bad debts and who have no idea how to retrieve it. Meanwhile Pakistan's domestic debt has surged to over Rs 800 billion or 42 per cent of GDP.

At the end of August, in a bid to stem the flood of borrowing, the SBP ordered banks to freeze lending to public sector corporations at the level of June 30, 1995. "This is to impose discipline on these corporations. If they are not disciplined we are in trouble. Their borrowing is also inflationary," Yakub said. "The dilemma is that over the past five years money supply has increased by 20 per cent, while real output has increased by less than 5 per cent", he said. "This gap has to find a way out and the only way is a rise in prices. We need to push out output and reduce monetary expansion", he added.

In another dramatic step a few days later the SBP abolished the credit deposit ratio as an instrument of credit control to the private sector. Previously the ratio obliged banks to lend 65 percent of their deposits to the government and 35 percent to the private sector. The SBP said the abolition would introduce market-based instruments for credit, although there will be new provisions put in place, which will still allow the government access to funds. However, the abolition of the ratio is seen as a significant step towards trying to limit Islamabad's borrowing and boosting credit to the beleaguered private sectors, particular the hard-hit textile sector.

Yakub, who is a firm believer in privatisation, said be was determined to maintain credit lines open to the private sector despite the problems created by excessive government borrowing. "If fiscal indiscipline is there or there is substantial borrowing by the public sector you have two choices, one is to tighten credit to the private sector but then you sacrifice productive activities of the country and that would be hurtful. So what we did was to allow credit expansion to the private sector in 1994-95 exactly in line with the credit line of Rs 55 billion of borrowing. We maintained that posture up to the third week of June, "when public sector corporations began to borrow massively to meet their end of year requirements.

Yakub maintains that at every level no government has managed to control monetary expansion except the interim government of Moeen Qureshi. "1993-94 was the only year when monetary expansion was for the right reasons but otherwise it has been for the wrong reasons. The bulk of credit expansion came from the government for budgetary support or for those schemes sponsored by the government like the Yellow Tractor Scheme. Public sector credit creation should be stopped," he said. In short the government's huge expenditures and borrowing spree has been successively bankrupting successive governments and the country and massively adding to the inflationary spiral.

On inflation Yakub said: "We have made inflation mysterious in this country but it is not mysterious." He refuted a question about whether the 13 percent inflation, as claimed by the government, was in reality much higher. "We have four indices for calculating inflation. There is a deficiency in the statistics of measurement but we have no option but to go along with the present statistics. In September there is an actually decline in inflation. If the cotton is very good then it should have a soothing effect on prices but I cannot predict what will happen to inflation," he said.

The SBP cannot take such major decisions, as it has done recently, without permission from the Finance Ministry, but Yakub put his job on the line by pushing for them, say senior bureaucrats. "The government knew it could not go to the IMF moot without being seen to do something, but everyone knows the deficit target is already shot through," said a senior Western banker in Karachi.

Yakub, who is a sprightly 58 and was educated at Punjab, Yale and Princeton Universities, worked at the State Bank between 1966 and 1972, when he joined the IMF's Middle East Department. In 1992, he returned to Pakistan to join the Ministry of Finance, becoming Governor of the SBP in July 1993. One of the government's first acts in January 1994, just after it came to power was to try and curtail the SBP's autonomy, which had been given its autonomy for the first time, only three months earlier by the interim government of Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi. The government later rescinded on some of its controls.

"The SBP does not have control but it has a say in policy-making, "Yakub said. "According to the law we have gone a long way. The administration of the SBP is run by the Board and the Governor and that situation is stable. But practices and traditions are more difficult to change than laws," he added.

Yakub also knows that as long as the bulk of banking is in the hands of state owned banks, government borrowing cannot be curtailed. In the past few months he has been barnstorming meetings of businessmen and

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bankers, pointing out the gross inefficiencies of the nationalised banks and urging their quick privatisation. Yakub says while nationalised banks spend 24 percent of their income on salaries and allowance, private banks spend just 7 percent.

One nationalised bank is spending 49 percent of its income on operational expenses. The government has promised to privatise United Bank [UBL], the third largest bank in the country by next year by selling off 26 percent to a strategic investor but UBL is loaded with unproductive debt, which will not help in its sale.

Yakub said that Pakistan would not devalue the rupee despite intense pressure from exporters to do so. He rejected allegations that the SBP was allowing a creeping devaluation. "The rate of exchange is being monitored very closely by us so that exports remain competitive because that is our bread and butter," he said. "Those demanding devaluation have a parochial rather than a national interest," he added. The SBP rightly fears that any hint of devaluation will add more fuel to inflation.

What endears Yakub to reform minded economists and industrialists, not to speak of international lenders, is that he is also a critic of the politics of patronage conducted by the feudal politicians that dominate Pakistan's landscape. "The system is such that it cannot tax the poor so it taxes the rich", he said.

Thus he sees the malaise in the political system for the accumulation of bad debts by banks, because feudal landlords and industrialists with good political connections can just refuse to pay them back. "The same culture prevails that created such huge bad debts. So the same factors are impeding their recovery. The owners of so called sick industries are very healthy people and so sickness is only a sickness for default," he said. The SBP has now set up a committee to pursue the 10 biggest defaulters in each nationalised bank. "Those ten may be the most powerful people and we won't be able to do anything, but let's see," he added with a smile.

Yakub's growing authority has given him a powerful voice in government decision-making, while his mild manner and attempt to redress problems through consensus rather than confrontation, has kept him, for the moment, on the right side of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who is also Finance Minister. Yakub's clout will grow in direct proportion to the worsening economic crisis— something that both the SBP and the government are still trying to avert.

Air Staff Chief Lauds Air Force Training Exercise

BK1810124695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Oct 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD (ISPR) — PAF [Pakistan Air Force] Exercise Highmark 95 concluded here Tuesday [17 October]. Chief of the Air Staff [CAS] Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Abbas Khattak in his Order of the Day has lauded the excellent performance of all personnel, especially the units that have directly participated in the operations. The CAS further appreciated the wide ranging operations that reflected the traditional trade mark of PAF efficiency and desire for mission accomplishment. He highlighted: "The maim aim of this exercise was to create a realistic environment under which the various combat elements could function and perform their assigned war roles. Furthermore, activation and mobilisation alongwith effective provisioning of logistic support, were some of the key factors necessitating meticulous preparation and execution. The task called for dedication, commitment and absolute professionalism". Pakistan Air Force, like all air forces of the world routinely conduct exercises and runs training schedules foreseeing the rapid changes in air power doctrine, its growth and potential so as to update old concepts, and to keep its men and machines fighting-fit. During Exercise Highmark 95 forward satellite bases were activated.

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